

Minutes of Inaugural Annual General Meeting



Friday, 18th October 2024 11:30 - 14:00 Ormidale Pavilion, Brodick

Attendees:

Caroline Logan, Andrew Stirling, Jack McQueen, Emily McQueen, John Connell, Iain McCallum, Shelagh McCallum, Jenny Williams, Stephanie Blaauw, Jessica Wallace, Toni Portner, Lindsay Kemp, Zabdi Keen, Helen Perry, Sophia Perry, Stephen Upton, Helena Paul

Apologies:

Zöe Hughes, Malcolm Kerr, Duncan Lunan, Linda Lunan, John Butterworth, Maggie Carson, Alyssa Berry

Board Members Present: Louise Logan, Simon Ross-Gill, David Bennett

1. Welcome and Introduction

- Meeting opened at 11:30 am (thanks to Andrew Stirling for technical support)
- Welcome by Simon and Louise

2. Overview Presentation

Speakers: Louise Logan and Simon Ross-Gill

The presentation involved discussion among attendees, focusing on the potential for community-led woodland management practices. [See the accompanying slides linked here](#) (and linked throughout these minutes)

Key topics covered:

a) Introduction and Context

- Welcome and introduction to inaugural AGM
- Origin and meaning of Gaelic word *Dùthchas* and relation to our work [[Slide 3](#) + [article](#)]
- Work so far: GlenCloy

b) GlenCloy Site Analysis and Historical Context

- GlenCloy site overview and selection rationale
 - Overview of current Sitka spruce plantations [[Slides 4 to 6](#)]
 - Scheduled tree felling through the Glenrickard Land Management Plan
 - Connection to key wetland and diverse woodland restoration with NatureScot
 - Protection of diverse, native woodland adjacent to the sitka [[Slides 7 + 8](#)]
 - Environmental impact considerations, pressure on Cloyburn, flooding in torrential rain and erosion in Brodick seafront
 - Access via forestry road [[Slide 9](#)]

- Historical and Archeological significance
 - Historical photographs demonstrating traditional land use patterns, settlements and transformation [[Slides 12 to 14](#)]
 - 1975 Royal Commission letter on Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland and accompanying annotated map identifying areas of archaeological significance that would be impacted by Sitka plantation [[Slides 15 + 16](#)]
- Historical research and mapping [[Slides 10 + 11](#)]
 - Use of [National Library of Scotland mapping tools](#)
 - LIDAR data analysis
 - Side by side comparison with historic maps showing landscape evolution

c) Sustainable Woodland Management

- Current timber usage assessment in Arran
 - Local timber processing and demand
 - Proposed slipway at Kingcross and local opposition
 - Skills development needs
 - Accommodation needs
- Sustainable woodland management strategy
 - Development and prototype of sustainable woodland practices
 - Selective felling and natural regeneration approaches
 - Tree nursery and seed saving for resilience
 - Non-timber forest product opportunities (Agroforestry, Silvopasture, Tertiary food production, larder and preserves)
- Environmental considerations
 - Wetland restoration
 - Biodiversity enhancement
 - Climate resilience
 - Environmental benefits of Crofting

d) Next steps - Design and Development Concepts

- Traditional building influences and sustainable design
 - Lewis blackhouse + other examples, principles for modern application of traditional styles [[Slides 18 + 19](#)]
 - Faroese and Scandinavian timber construction and turf roof methods [[Slides 20 to 22](#)]
 - Emphasis on local materials and low-impact construction
- Hutting and crofting integration strategy
 - Complementary relationship between crofting and hutting
 - Community space planning and shared resource management
 - Sustainable infrastructure development

- Architectural vision
 - Presentation of initial concept drawings by Robert Thomson demonstrating nucleated settlement [[Slides 23 to 26](#)]
 - Woodland crofting community structure and layout
 - Integration with existing landscape features

e) Next Steps

- Development timeline and key milestones
- Community engagement strategy
 - Ongoing consultation process around Arran (events at village halls)
 - Skills development and training opportunities
 - Partnership building
- Asset transfer progression
 - Legal and administrative requirements
 - Funding strategy development
 - Stakeholder engagement

3. Board Election

● **Community Directors:**

Up to 7 directors, elected by and from the Community Members (those residing in the KA27 postcode). They represent the majority of the Board, ensuring that the Society remains rooted in local interests. Roles Filled -

- Community Organiser - **Simon Ross-Gill**
- Environmental Stewardship - **John Connell**
- Advocacy and Policy - **Louise Logan**
- Health and Well-being Coordinator - **Maggie Carson** (proposed by Simon Ross-Gill)

Currently Vacant - responsibilities shared between directors

- Crop and Livestock Specialist
- Woodland Management
- Business, Finance and Treasury

● **Supporter Directors:** Up to 3 directors, elected by and from the Supporter Members (who may reside outside KA27 but support the Society's objectives).

- **Drumadoon Estate** - represented by David Bennett

● **Co-opted Non-Executive Directors:** Up to 2 directors are appointed by the Board for their particular skills or expertise.

- Heritage Food Preparation, Preservation, and Larder Specialist - **Jenny Williams**
- Education and Knowledge Sharing Coordinator - **Shelagh McCallum**

4. Financial Update

To date, there is no financial update. The organisation's finances have been covered by the Arran Pioneer Project until a bank account is opened and funds raised, following which we will be in touch to issue community shares to members.

5. Decisions and Action Points

- Proceed with community asset transfer of GlenCloy woodland
- Public outreach and meetings in village halls
- Establish work with board members.

Meeting concluded at 14:00

6. Site Visit

Following the formal meeting, attendees participated in a guided walk of the GlenCloy site with Louise, walking up the Cloyburn from the old sandstone bridge to reach the woodland.

Minutes recorded by: Simon Ross-Gill Date: 18/10/24

Seconded by: Louise Logan, John Connell Date: 4/11/24
