

Arran Community Council, Forestry Extraction Working Group.

Approved Minutes of 10th meeting held 20th March 2017 at the Forestry Office, Brodick, 18.00 to 19.30 hrs.

Present: R. McMaster (Chair), D. Price (Machrie resident and minutes), N. Arthur (ACC), W. Calderwood (ACC), P. Randell (ACC), L. Evans (ACC), A. Walker & N. Murray (Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS)), G. McLeod (NAC).

1. APOLOGIES L. Gunaydi (Machrie resident), A. Murray (A. Wilson`s), J Henderson (ACC)

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes approved, proposed by N. Murray, seconded by N. Arthur.

2.1 Actions Peter Randell represents Whiting Bay and Julie Graham will replace Hazel representing Lochranza.
as an ACC representative.

3. MACHRIE PROJECT

3.1 Marine consent is being re-sought with Marine Scotland. There are no changes since the previous application and approval.

3.2 Planning approval had been granted for the road access on Machrie Moor road to facilitate extraction from `Wee Machrie` forest.

The application to N. Ayrshire Council for planning permission for the main scheme is being worked on. Some preliminary data has been supplied to the NAC and FCS is awaiting discussions with them. An application by May 2017 was anticipated, with construction of the slipway to commence in Autumn 2017 (or in spring 2018 subject to funding, consents etc) when the tides were lower. Further work is being done on the design of the timber store, specifically the coast road access and lines of sight and consideration of cattle grids top side of the road to minimise road debris. And consideration given to the planting scheme to ensure that this does not adversely impact on the safety.

N. Murray confirmed the expected cost of the slipway was now estimated at £250,000. The actual cost will not be known until any planning consent conditions are known and the works tendered. He stated that once planning approval was obtained there is a requirement for him to refer the proposal back to the FC board for their agreement prior to any further work on the project.

The road route for timber from Torr Righ forest was queried. Following discussion it was concluded that the Rodden road (and bridge over the Blackwater river) in Torbeg/Shiskine were unsuitable, so traffic would have to travel north to Machrie. Some concerns over the tight bend and bridge at Machriewater on this route still remain. The ARM map indicates that the timber should go the opposite direction but this is perhaps something that needs to be addressed at the next Ayrshire Timber Transport Group meeting.

3.3 N. Murray stated that some preparatory work was being undertaken with NAC regards an application to the Strategic Timber Transport Fund (STTF) for the public road sections. FCS has applied under the fund for two separate preparatory bids to carry out some further work in advance of submitting a full STTF application. One such bid covers Machrie and the other a potential project in the south of the island. Funds are relatively limited for such preparatory bids. Possible projects include the road junctions in Machrie and Blackwaterfoot, and some sea bed

exploratory work at the south end of the Island. *Secretary note Post meeting N Murray has had confirmation both bids have been successful.*

3.4 D. Price, speaking as a Machrie resident, stated that the Machrie Improvements Committee had met in Machrie with J. Greene MSP two weeks previously to register their continued opposition and concerns with him about the Machrie project. N. Arthur attended as the local ACC representative. Mr Greene will be writing to the CEO of FCS, the CEO of N. Ayrshire Council and the Scottish Government minister to whom the FCS report, requesting more detail and clarification about the proposed project. D. Price referred to a document which Machrie Improvements Committee had drawn up as the basis for these concerns, and which are appended to these minutes.

3.4 Machrie drop-in session. N. Murray confirmed this informative event will take place in Machrie Hall on March 29th from 4 to 6pm. B. Calderwood suggested the need for an additional meeting on the east side of the Island. No decision was made.

4. BRODICK SLIP

It was confirmed that the slip had been upgraded and could now take both the timber barge and the Red Princess. Some discussion took place about the impact of timber lorries and the large number of trucks currently in Brodick due to the ferry terminal activities.

5. SOUTH END PROJECT

N. Murray reported no progress on this scheme.

6. AOB

D. Price asked if data on the tonnages exported via the various routes in 2016 could be supplied, as previously. N. Murray said he no longer had this information but would ask A. Murray of Wilson`s. ACTION ...N. MURRAY

D. Price asked about replanting with deciduous trees rather than conifers. A. Walker confirmed that between 2003 and 2008, deciduous trees only were planted, but simply due to the particular circumstances pertaining at that time. Today the plan is to replant the current forests (which typically had 90% conifers), with 70% conifers, 30% deciduous trees and increased open space to broaden the range of wildlife habitats.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Nothing planned pending planning permission. N. Murray will then contact D. Price.

ACTION... N MURRAY