

Arran Community Council, Forestry Extraction Working Group.

Approved Minutes of 11th meeting held 10th August 2017 at the Forestry Office, Brodick, 17.00 to 18.00 hrs.

Present: W. Calderwood (ACC) (Chair), D. Price (Machrie resident and minutes), N. Arthur (ACC), J. Henderson (ACC), P. Randell (ACC), N. Murray (Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS)).

1. APOLOGIES L. Gunaydi (Machrie resident), R. McMaster (ACC), G. McLeod (NAC). A. Walker (FCS), L. Evans (ACC).

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Minutes approved, subject to some amendments by W. Calderwood and N. Murray. Proposed by P. Randell, seconded by N. Arthur.

3. MACHRIE PROJECT

N. Murray reported that FCS had received useful feedback from the drop-in session in Machrie Hall on March 29th. It was attended by 22 locals. This had resulted in some changes to the timber store design which was now much smaller, further away from the road, and included two cattle grids to facilitate debris removal and a layby north of the entrance. NAC did not want any signs or traffic lights. N. Murray tabled plan and side elevation drawings and will forward electronic versions to D. Price for circulation. ACTION... N.Murray.

The timber store and slipway is still estimated at ~£250k. By comparison, Sannox was £90k but both store and slipway are smaller at Sannox. Timber exported from Machrie will be 40,000 tonnes per annum, (plus 40,000 tonnes via Brodick.)

The road routes from forests to Machrie had been investigated with NAC. The route from Torr Righ will be north direct to Machrie, rather than south and through Torbeg and Shiskine.

Discussions with NAC had resulted in a proposal for 6 to 8 laybys on the Machrie Moor road. D. Price queried this number as it is significantly fewer than the previously minuted 13 laybys (*meeting no.2 July 1st 2015*). A number of members expressed their serious concerns about the reduced number and size of these laybys, pointing out the need to accommodate coaches and trucks which use this road, as well as locals and visitors cars - and without the need for vehicles to reverse into them. N. Arthur stated that such laybys should be capable of holding a timber lorry/trailer plus two following cars, say 170 feet long. ACTION....N. Murray agreed to investigate further with NAC.

It was noted that the Strategic Timber Transport Fund was fully allocated for the current year.

N. Murray reported that a planning application to NAC will be made either late August or early Sept 2017. This means construction of the slip could not take place until Autumn 2018 (lower tides). He acknowledged that deciduous tree planting around the timber store site could begin immediately planning was approved, so providing an extra year of growth. W. Calderwood confirmed that the application will be discussed at Community Council and publicised locally. N. Murray confirmed that final FCS Board approval is required following planning approval by NAC.

In response to questions by N. Arthur about alternative sites which would not need road crossings between store and slipway, N. Murray reiterated that this site was the only suitable one

for operational and design reasons and the only one with landowner consent. N. Arthur specifically referred to a potential site south of the Machrie golf course stating that a marine survey should have been conducted before rejecting it. FCS considered that all appropriate checks had been completed for that location.

4. SOUTH END PROJECT

N. Murray reported that various potential sites from south of Lamlash to the south of the island continue to be investigated. His target date to have a suitable facility was 2020.

5. AOB

D. Price briefly outlined an alternative proposal submitted to FCS and FWG members by Machrie Improvements Committee to transport timber W to E across the spine of the island via forest tracks to Brodick and so avoid the need for a Machrie slipway and also to minimise road transport. This scheme had also been shown to Scottish Natural Heritage and D. Price had discussed it personally with them. They had stated that such a scheme would not be approved on environmental grounds relating to fauna, flora and ground conditions.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Nothing planned pending planning permission/ FCS Board approval. N. Murray will then contact D. Price.

ACTION... N. MURRAY