



## Management Group Meeting Minutes

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November, 7pm, Estate Office, Applecross House

**Present:** Archie MacLellan (AM), Chair (Applecross Trust), Alistair McCowan (AMcC) (Historical Society), Gill Fairweather (Walks and Traditional crafts group) Tom Kilbride (co-opted member), Mike Summers (Applecross Crofters), Alasdair Macleod (AMac)(Community Council), Jackie Liuba (co-opted member), Sam Bridgewater, Elodie Matthews.

**Apologies of absence:** Derek MacLennan (Bealach group), Gordon Cameron (Heritage Manager), Owen Kilbride (Archaeological Society), Mary Gibson (adviser), Lorna Lumsden (Applecross Trust).

The minutes of the MG meeting of the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011 were approved by all present and will be made available via the website.

### Updates

Provided on separate document.

### Minutes

#### Finances

TK requested details on the Arrina path project. He pointed out the fact that walkers in this area were at risk of getting lost and the route desperately needs work and waymarking. SB stated that he is waiting for specifications and cost estimates for the Ardheslaig to Kenmore path. It was agreed that advice should be sought from path advisor on the Arrina path. SB said he would ask George Mundell to have a look in the first instance.

#### Archaeological Trail

SB provided an update on the leg proposed through Smiddy Woods, contouring around at the base of the hillside from Smiddy cottages to Keppoch. SB said that a specification and provisional costing for this line was being drafted by Bob Brown, and highlighted the problem of the many roots and stumps dotted on the path line which might make the path prohibitively expensive, and result in large numbers of stumps to be disposed of. TK reminded the group of the 420 trees provided by the Woodland Trust that need planting. GF suggested the creation of copses at the bottom of the field. AM and SB confirmed that these were in the plan. The possibility of bringing stock to help with the grazing was mentioned, and MS recommended younger cattle. AMac informed the group that he trimmed the rushes and that it is possible that neither machinery nor stock will be required for the management of the area. The use of a temporary electric fence was proposed as a possibility by AM should grazing management be required. SB also reminded the group that Scottish Woodlands would be planting ca. 3,000 mixed broadleaf trees in the spring.

#### Gateway Woodlands

SB informed the group that a community meeting was planned on the 6<sup>th</sup> December with Bruce Taylor to discuss the Gateway Woodland project. The group insisted on the necessity of removing the job specification from Scottish Woodlands and seeing the project managed by ALPS directly as far as possible. AMac raised the question of having a wood shed for fuelwood for the community.

#### Carnoch

SB informed the group that he had invited Mike Ellis (coppice expert) to provide advice on the management of Carnoch, and that he (SB) would begin to draft a management plan for area. It was made clear by AM that the Trust currently have no money available and no plans to enclose the whole area, but that small enclosures to assess regeneration in the absence of deer could be considered and was possible with the existing ALPS budget. SB to gather all historical/ecological/management information on Carnoch, collate and options and report back to the management group in the spring.

#### Other matters arising

SB informed the group of the indicative cost for the interpretive seats on the Bealach and Beechwood path and although it is slightly over budget, the group agreed to the necessity of going ahead with the project.

The date of next meeting is set for Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012.