

**Foyers Bay Steering Group Meeting – Notes**

**Date: 23rd June 2025**

**Meeting time: 7pm**

**Meeting location: The Hub, Lower Foyers**

 **Present:** Malcolm Stewart (MS) – Chair, Caroline Tucker (CT)

Bob Main (BM), Craig Lightbody (CL), Neil Farnham (NF)

**Apologies:** Jewels Lang, Ken Sinclair, Vaughn Devlin

1. **Welcome –** CT welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies.
2. **Actions arising from previous steering group meeting**

**a) CT to get update from JL re hardcore for BCC.** JL spoke to Billy and Neil at BCC, no progress reported. NF added that there are now plans being worked on to tarmac the carpark area so hardcore no longer required.

b) **CT to chase up Norman Campbell at GJ Campbell re causeway plans.** CT emailed Norman early June and no response. **Action – CT to chase up.**

**c) MS to collect and install life belt, throw rope, oil spill kit and first aid kit.** Installed.

**d) CT to update welcome signs and liaise with sign centre to have them made up**. Done.

e) **CT to contact picnic table supplier to arrange delivery.** Complete.

f) **New booking system –** CT to ask Calum Martin to look at option of restricting numbers of bookings at one time then activate. Done.

g) **Electricity connection –** CT to liaise with admin/ finance re existing suppliers. **Action – CT to act on this urgently.**

**h) Installation of cameras and security lighting.** Mike Utton to provide quote once connected.

i) **Look at options for getting shrubs from The Woodland Trust –** CT has researched this and there are a couple of options available. Applications need to be submitted by end of August for November delivery. Discussion had about planting these, suggestion was that we would need to bring in a digger driver to open a trench as ground now compacted. **Action – CT to complete application for trees. Further conversations can be had once outcome is known.**

**j) MS to install slipway markers.** Not actioned. **Action - MS to install slipway markers.**

**k) Team to look out for options for a small welfare unit for purchase.** Review at next meeting. Listed as an agenda item in tonight’s meeting.

**l) Various tasks associated with community litter pick and open event on 3rd May –** all complete.

**m) CT to contact Amber Monteith, owner of Colin Evan’s old house to arrange a meeting.** Done. Amber will come back to us once she is a little more organised and has a better idea of what remains.

n) **MS to install floating blocks as bay markers in compound.** Done

o) **CT to add approved minutes to project page and circulate to Board.** Done.

**Approval of minutes -** Notes of previous meeting approved.

**Action – CT to circulate to Board and add to project page on website.**

1. **Purchase of container/ welfare unit**

* CT noted that this is the main action point to enable completion of this phase of the Foyers Bay. She summarised options identified since previous meeting:
* Option 1: 24ft Static unit with 2 toilets, office and canteen space - £11,100 inc. VAT and delivery
* Option 2: Welfare unit with 1 x toilet and canteen - £8,100 inc. VAT and delivery
* Option 3: 20ft Office/ canteen 1, canteen and office space only - £5,700 inc. VAT and delivery
* 20ft Office/ canteen 2, as above but more used - £4,140 inc. VAT and delivery
* Option 4: Second hand portacabin, condition not great. £1,000 for unit, estimate £500 for collection.
* CL pointed out that the addition of a workspace would encourage members. All present agreed.
* CT added that this item has been budgeted for and agreed as an action by the group, what is required is agreeing on requirements and preferred cabin.
* MS said that he had spoken to someone who makes canopies that could join the two containers together. In order for this to work, we would need to purchase a container that we could modify, or something already modified, that is the same height as the existing container. Cost of canopy in region of £7.5k.
* BM urged caution in purchasing something for modifying – would need to factor in costs of joinery, or ensure volunteers have time to complete this work. It may be less hassle to buy something already converted.
* CT summarised project finances:
* There is £25k remaining of the Scottish Canals fund. In the budget for 2024/ 2025 we allocated £5k for a container.
* Of what remains we would need to purchase a canopy, and allocate the remaining funds to constructing a causeway at the end of the slipway.
* Suggested split - £5k to canopy, £15k to causeway.
* Discussion had on what facilities were required in the cabin.
* CT updated the group on the situation with the portable toilet located at Foyers Bay. As Nixon Hire will no longer be servicing this area, it has been agreed that we keep the toilet at no cost to us, but we will need to source a company to service it (Amanda, SFCT’s Facilities Officer, has been tasked with arranging this). This means that we have a toilet on site, therefore perhaps a toilet in the cabin is not required at this point.
* **Action – CT to source a 20ft container, already converted. No need for a toilet – canteen and office space only.**
* BM stated that we will need to be aware of which ways the doors open. Consensus was that this could easily be changed once onsite.
* Discussion had about where to locate the containers, taking into consideration electricity source, opportunities for water (once connected) and not taking up too much space that can be used by members to store boats. Decision taken that they would be located inside the secure compound between the two entrance gates.
* Discussion had about canopies, £5k allocated for this. **Action – MS to get quotes.**

1. **Update on further tasks requiring completion in 2025 season**

* CT updated that there were a couple of other tasks, as outlined in point 2, still to be completed. These are connecting the electricity and installing security lighting and cameras, and applying to The Woodland Trust for shrubs to create a hedge.
* Discussion moved on to the potential for installing a causeway at the end of the slipway. CT updated that she and MS had met with Norman Campbell earlier in the year to discuss possibilities and we were waiting for an update from him.
* BM brought a potential design proposal for a causeway to the group for discussion. This would use concrete slabs laid into the loch to improve access to the loch.

Discussions had about materials required and where they could be sourced from. BM expressed concern that all of the hardcore had already been used in the landscaping works – this would have been helpful to keep for works such as this.

* CL asked if we would need to notify HC planning department.

CT responded that we would, but it would be seen as modifying an existing application.

CL queried as to whether this could be seen as temporary, which may assist with any changes to the application.

**Action – BM to work on design to take to Mike Lawson. CT to speak to Mike and ask if he can formalise drawings and have a conversation with HC planning with regards to** **modifying the planning application.**

* Further discussion had on budget for this revised work. CT summarised that with money allocated to the container and canopy, there is £15k left in the Scottish Canals fund that can be allocated to this.

BM pointed out that this is likely to be only half of what is required, estimating a cost of around £30k.

**Action – CT to speak to JL with regards to potential budget availability from SFCT funds.**

* CL asked whether the Foyers Bay members have been invited to join the steering group. It would be good to have their input on the project as they are the main users.

CT acknowledged that this needed to be done. Discussion had around how to get them involved – possibility of a members’ event in September.

**Action – CT to write to all members with a project update and invite them all to join the steering group.**

**5. AOB**

* MS raised the point that the wooded area adjacent to the slipway is also our responsibility.

CT acknowledged this, but suggested parking it for now.

CL suggested this could be used by the firewood group. No action required at present.

**6. Date of next meeting**

Group agreed meetings could now be 3-monthly, discussion can be done on email in between. Meeting proposed for September – date to be confirmed closer to the time.

**Meeting closed 8.50pm**