

June 2018 Report.

Woodshed.

The structure erection is now complete except the personnel doors. These cannot be attached until the wooden cladding is secured to the blockwork.

Work on the concrete floor will commence on Monday 02nd July. This should take several weeks and will then allow the blockwork to commence.

Still await the outcome of the building warrant changes before we can accurately cost and tender further work (electrics and whatever fire retardation may be required.)

I have heard from the building standards officer who has said he only wants to be told once the building is complete.

Burial Ground

Ronnie has produced planning drawings for approval by us prior to submission along with statement of fees . The planning charges quoted have already been paid and I've confirmed with the planning department that this can be transferred to this application. I will be interested to see if this passes through the process as quickly as has been suggested. If this does happen do we have funds set aside to commence the practical work?

The planning application has been validated and now awaits final approval. We have had some informal feedback from the council that has been quite positive.

Peatland Restoration

In response to my tender for the practical work only one contractor was finally willing to quote for this. Others were deterred by the scale of the work required and the specialist nature of the site. I discussed this with Peatland Action who were still keen to receive a funding application. I completed the application with the information to hand and submitted this prior to the deadline. I also submitted a covering note outlining the work required and surveys that would need to be carried out before any real work could start. There is also the issue of access.

Peatland Action have now considered the application and due to the high value and issues surrounding this site they have deferred consideration of the application until further preparatory work has been completed. They still think this can be returned to peatland and support the project. We have been allocated a project officer who wishes to make a site visit over the next few weeks and discuss how we can resolve all of the highlighted issues. A fresh water pearl mussel survey is definitely required – this may be SNH funded and I'll discuss this with the project officer at our meeting. It is probable that this project will have to be delivered in phases over two or three years.

If the forest plan is under review it may be worth including this project as a felling license would still be required.

Affordable Housing

After Argyll and Bute removed Dervaig from the Strategic Housing Investment Plan we submitted an expression of interest to the Rural Housing Fund. The response was positive and our project reasonable so we are now invited to make a feasibility application to the islands housing fund. Need to discuss who we invite to tender for this. Rural Housing Scotland are the only ones I know

(I completely confused the relationships/roles of the rural housing fund, Rural Housing Scotland/Our Island Home.)

Small Scale Harvest.

Tilhill are now delivering the larch to West Ardhu. We received a complaint that the drivers were leaving gates open. This was highlighted to the harvesting manager (Alan Harrower has replaced Iain Moody) and hopefully that has been dealt with.

Eaglewatch

Due to very unfortunate circumstances our site is the only one with viable chicks. This has kept visitor numbers high. Unfortunately our ranger has resigned mid season to take on a full time permanent position elsewhere. Helen has been working with Dave Sexton to arrange cover for the rest of the season.