

# Minutes

## Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire Timber Transport Group

Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 10:00

### Online

**Attendee:** Alex Murray, Simon Stuart, Bill Tyre, Steph Bateman, Stephen Parr, Alistair Taylor, Julie Paton, Hannah Richardson, David Hilditch, Kenny Mackenzie, Kevin Braidwood, Stuart Colbron, Ian Downie.

**Apologies:** Roland Stiven, Keith Jolly, Andrew Kennedy, Roderick Leslie Melville, Alan Christison, Radek Zebrowski, Tom Tryon, Sandy White, Isaac Adams, Malcolm Murray, David Stoddart, Andrew Kitching, Daniel McDonald, Doug Howieson, Andrew Dixon, David Smith, Neil Dyson.

### 1. Welcome, Introduction & Apologies

**AM** welcomed everyone to the meeting. **SS** then read out apologies.

### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Last meetings minutes signed off.

### 3. Vice-Chair Election Results.

**SS** reported there were three candidates, 22 possible votes, with 16 responses, two of these being abstentions.

Stuart Colbron received the greatest number of votes and was duly elected as Vice-Chair.

### 4. Local Timber Transport Issues

- a. **Police** – No police representatives, **AM** mentioned theft of diesel and damage to machines on FLS site in Newton Stewart.
- b. **North Ayrshire** – **DH** made mention of the Sannox landing site which needs work and negotiations ongoing with FLS.  
An increase in woodland creation scheme has been seen and these are being dealt with.
- c. **ARA** – No representatives present, **SS** to pick up any issues in his report.

- d. **South Lanarkshire** – **SC** talked about Glen Taggart Road which has had issues and retrospective consultation, wish to avoid this in future.

New planting consultations also on the increase.

## 5. Timber Transport Group Governance

**AM** again apologised for **SS** and himself not having this finalised, suggest drawing up an A4 sheet with up to 30 bullet points.

Need to consider agreement and role of contributing members, such as only contributing members able to put forward nominations for elections.

**DH** mentioned that anything produced would need to be put to council committee, proviso to send to councils for approval before finalising.

## 6.

### a. Brash and Stone

Reminder that consultation for these are important to protect roads, James England has lots of scary photos.

This has been discussed many times before and common sense is usually sufficient to deal with any issues.

Hauliers have to take responsibility for the road, report any deterioration quickly.

**SS to work with councils to attempt to keep things running smoothly.**

### b. Neighbours

Discussing extraction plans with neighbours can alleviate conflicts, whether with general public or other haulage operations.

### c. Woodland Creation

Engagement with woodland creation plans at an early stage important, also remember timber haulage will be many years down the road and expectations should reflect this.

However, clear guidance on what is likely to be required to allow timber transport to occur in future should be put forward.

## 7. Access Points and other works on public roads

- a. **Specifications** - Appropriate access point specifications for smaller amounts to timber.
- b. **Road Opening Permits and Other Legal Requirements** – Reminder that all classified roads (A, B or C) may need planning permission. U class roads need prior notification.

Important to have access to road numbers.

## 8. Timber Transport Officer Updates

- a. **Revised Agreed Routes Map Update** – Amendments to the ARM have now been made, did take over a year.

Issues with sale of timber and new planting schemes on excluded routes need to be addressed individually. Scope for private companies to put money into public road network?

Issues with SPHN being issued on excluded routes, SF insistent on compliance.

SC has started to check excluded routes for SLC.

- b. **Timber Strapping Issues and Forestry CPC Modules.**

Timber strapping guidance has been updated to require 2 straps if have crane and no headboard.

CPC modules dates still to be confirmed.

- c. **Complaints** – There have been a few, but generally hauliers very good when contacted and problems solved quickly.

Still problems with anti-social hours, these areas should be identified and contracts adjusted where appropriate.

- d. **Working Groups**

- a) **Arran** – Need to set meeting.
- b) **U27** – SS to maintain contact with all parties to coordinate operations.
- c) **Barr** – Inforest road possibility.
- d) **Andershaw Road** – Need to discuss timber flows and timescales.

- e. **Timber Flow Information** – Exit point data just about complete. This will be available to TTPO's but possibly not for wider distribution.

DH councils should have access to this information.

**f. Strategic Timber Transport Fund Update**

Very successful for 2020/21, East Ayrshire 3 schemes, South Ayrshire 4 schemes, South Lanarkshire 2 Schemes and North Ayrshire 1 scheme.

**g. ASL STTS bids 2020/21**

Everyone to let SS know of potential bids ASAP.

**DH** suggested Sannox pier road and Ross road.

**h. TTO funding 2020/21** – Three new contributing members, Jenkinsons, Agriforest and Wilmers.

## **9. Timber Transport Forum Update**

TTF was held online 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

Items discussed included;

Electronic contracts for 2021/22.

Driver domicile status.

Conference likely to be cancelled.

Brash and chip haulage.

Code of practise updated and endorsed by Police Scotland, on website.

Rail trial in North Scotland.

40 STTS projects almost all public sector.

Jason Hubert highlighted money coming back has to be identified as quickly as possible.

James England has produced a discussion paper on private contributions to public road network.

Decarbonisation of timber transport group has been set up.

Grant funding for autotensioner announced.

Roland Stiven leaving for Scottish Forestry and job advertised.

Next TTF meeting, 5<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

### **10.A.O.C.B**

- a. A713 improvements have made the best it's ever been, but opinion that STTS sign not big enough. Up to spec?
- b. Following on from STTS sign in general forestry work signs could be bigger, especially on faster roads.
- c. **AM** gave vote of thanks to Neil Murray for his time as vice-chair and said he will be missed.
- d. After the meeting **SB** asked that the groups thoughts and best wishes go out to family, friends and colleagues of Lindsay Wood who died recently.

Suggested date of next meeting 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021.