

Minutes for GTTG meeting

Date: 02 November 2023

Location: James Jones and Sons, Mosstodloch

Present:

Will Anderson – Chair (WA)
Paul Barron – Moray Council (PB)
Barthy Digby – Scottish Forestry (BD)
Graham Donaldson – Scottish Woodlands (GD)
Cameron Gillies – Euroforest (CGi)

Claire Glaister – GTTG Project Officer (CG)
Lee Grigor – James Jones (LG)
Paul Mathieson – Tilhill (PM)
Stephen MacDonald – Fountains (SMcD)
Kyle Sharpe – Euroforest (KS)

Apologies

Mark Atherton – Moray Council
Niall Duncan – Scottish Woodlands
Steven Hutcheon – Scottish Forestry

John Mackie – Scottish Forestry
Claire Wightman – Treestory

Agenda Item	Action	Appointed person/s
5. (13/11/19)	Colour up all B-class road default Agreed Routes	CG/JE
6. (05/10/22)	Arrange visits with roads department staff	CG
5. (08/03/23)	Organise visits to forest management companies to promote GTTG and timber transport initiatives/good practice	CG
2. (28/06/23)	Post Road Permit weblinks on GTTG Local Guidance web page	CG
3. (28/06/23)	Discuss current and potential future match funding contributions for RTTG PO role	CG/All
4. (28/06/23)	Update ARM website with updated Moray ARM classifications	CG/JE
5. (28/06/23)	Circulate FISA roadside safety guide, once published	CG
4.	Provide details of individual contributions to match funders	CG
5.	Update members on discussions with Aberdeenshire Council re closure of the Slug Road	CG
5.	Organise meeting with planning department representatives	BD/CG

1. Tour of Mosstodloch sawmill and High Vision lorry

Marcus led the tour around the sawmill and Stuart demonstrated the High Vision lorry so that members could see and discuss a range of topics including log deliveries and storage, mill operation and efficiency, sawn products and timber quality and innovation across the sector.

2. Welcome, introductions and apologies

WA and LG welcomed all those present in person and invited introductions as a few people were new to the GTTG.

3. Introduction to James Jones & Sons Limited

LG gave a presentation on James Jones & Sons Limited, covering the company's history and members of the wider group, current market share and annual timber consumption, forestry and timber operations, machine productivity and costs, log sourcing, the timber haulage fleet, in-cab technology (e.g. NavMan) and research and development (JJS have been key partners in a number of industry trials including auto tensioners and electric timber lorries).

In memory of Roland Stiven

WA gave members the very sad news that Roland Stiven, formerly the Timber Transport Forum Project Officer and more recently the Forest Sector Development Advisor at Scottish Forestry, passed away earlier in the week after a short illness.

Members acknowledged the immense amount of work that Roland had undertaken on behalf of the timber haulage sector in particular, and for the wider industry more generally, and wished to express their condolences to the family at this time.

4. Review of notes of last meeting on 28 June 2023 & matters arising

GTTG members were happy to accept the minutes of the last meeting as an accurate record of discussions.

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6. (05/10/22)	Arrange visits with roads department staff	CG
5. (08/03/23)	Organise visits to forest management companies to promote GTTG and timber transport initiatives/good practice	CG
6. (08/03/23)	Circulate Handling roundwood in ports FISA guide	CG
2.	Post Road Permit weblinks on GTTG Local Guidance web page	CG
2.	Circulate example Trunk Agency form	WA/CG
2.	Update Towie residents of GTTG discussions	CG
3.	Discuss current and potential future match funding contributions for RTTG PO role	CG/All
4.	Discuss potential start/end point considerations on C35H and U139E with colleagues and supply shapefile to CG	PB
4.	Update ARM website with updated Moray ARM classifications	CG/JE
5.	Circulate FISA roadside safety guide, once published	CG
5.	Circulate examples of haulage notification/new planting consultation forms	CG
5.	Submit final comments on Transporting timber on public roads to CG	All

3. Roadsides – permits, working and trees

See also in 5. GTTG members updates.

CG reminded members that FISA are currently developing the roadside working guidance and advised that there has been an increase in enquiries received regarding the management of roadside trees. Members discussed how roads authorities have a legal responsibility to maintain the public road but Scottish Forestry may need to be contacted to establish whether permission to fell the tree/s is required.

4. Strategic Timber Transport Scheme update and future GTTG projects

Members have previously discussed the current arrangements for funding the Project Officer role. CG to contact individual match funders to confirm their current levels of support so that they can consider if these values could be increased should STTS budgets reduce.

5. GTTG members updates

5.1. Round table updates and topical discussion

5.1.1. Member updates

5.1.1.1. Several members noted that difficulties are being encountered when requests for comment during the consultation process were not actioned by stakeholders. CG advised that she was meeting the new timber transport representative from Aberdeenshire Council shortly and will raise the matter with them. WA suggested that any requests for comments include a statement stating that if no response is received by a specific date, this will be taken as confirmation that there were no issues;

5.1.1.2. PB suggested that it might be useful to relaunch the existing TTF guidance on consultation and engagement as the process of who should do what and when is laid out but a reminder of the process would be beneficial. CG suggested that the publication of the revised TTF Good Practice Guide: ***Transporting Timber on Public Roads: Consultation and Engagement Guidance*** would be a great opportunity for such a relaunch;

5.1.1.3. CGi asked if there was any information on the closure of the Slug Road (an Agreed Route); CG confirmed that she would discuss with Aberdeenshire Council and update the group accordingly;

5.1.1.4. GD wished to highlight a variability in approach to forest accesses/planning permission requirements within local authorities and how managers can be asked for a specification which differs from published guidelines. BD suggested a meeting be arranged with SF, the S&TTTG PO and local authority planning representatives to discuss the issue and raise awareness;

5.1.1.5. GD asked if the funding parameters have changed/likely to change for an STTS bid or if anything was being done to help isolated landowners with funding. WA/CG advised that future STTS support is currently under discussion but it is likely there will be more of a focus on demonstrating community benefits, in line with Scottish Government targets;

5.1.1.6. LG notified members that JJ&SL are running in-forest Driver CPC training course for their drivers and sub-contractors through McPherson's in Elgin;

5.1.2. TTF update

No update provided

5.1.3.FISA Haulage Working Group update

No update provided

6. Provisional date/s for next meetings

6.1.1.Wednesday 21 February 2024

The GTTG group would like to express their sincere thanks to Lee for hosting the meeting and his presentation, to Marcus for the tour around the mill and to Stuart for giving the demonstration of the HiVision lorry.