

West Fife Woodlands



Minutes of Meeting Held at Blairhall Community Centre: Thursday 03 August 2017

Attendance:

Stan Welch, Ronnie Collins, Frank Waterworth, John Rogers, Andy Trumper, Hilda Carmichael, Alistair Hendry, David Welch. Alan McGuckin, Lynda Milne.

1. Chair's Welcome

Chair Stan Welch welcomed all to the meeting and a special warm welcome was extended to Lynda Milne attending her first monthly meeting.

2. Apologies

Peter & Liz McMullan.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting 06/07/17

Proposed by Alistair Hendry, Seconded by Hilda Carmichael.

4. Matters Arising

Stan W confirmed the work requested of the group on the Saline/Steelend path had been completed.

5. Floor Limit expenditure (£200.00) since previous meeting:

Purchases:

Hedgetrimmer. £586.00 } HLF (IFLI) Valleyfield Orchard
Extended pole Tree saw and pruner £136.80 } Garden Project funding
Curved Saw £61.96 – FCS funding

All above items purchased by means of specific funding received by group and not requiring prior approval from management committee but recorded in minutes for audit purposes.

6. Treasurer's Report

Frank W provided details of the group's current financial position.

7. Correspondence

Invitation received from IFLI for the group to attend as a stallholder at the Forth Naturalist & Historian Conference, Saturday 11th November 2017, Stirling University. Invitation accepted.

Action: John R to advise IFLI and enquire if display boards provided.

8. FCS update

John R confirmed remaining funding from FCS grant for training and tools have been used to purchase a curved saw and PPE.

9. Proposed organisational change to the group's status.

Alan McG provided members with a summary of the meeting with Helen Rorrison, Fife Voluntary Action that he had attended with four management commitment members. The meeting had been informative and the organisational options available to the group were explained in detail. The consensus of opinion is that the group

should change to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) as this would provide a high degree of protection to members against personal liability, the principal reason for a change being considered.

A Special General Meeting will be required for a vote by members on a resolution to make any changes to the group's Constitution.

Action: John R to arrange SGM.

10. Woodland Workouts – scheduled activities to next meeting

The planned activities for five Mondays are as follows:

07 August

Clear regeneration growth on East Bing paths.

14 August

Improve underfoot condition on path – Balgownie Wood

21 August

Clear regeneration growth on West Bing paths

28 August

Valleyfield Orchard - check stakes on trees and remove weeds as necessary. Tbc.

04 September

Valleyfield Wood – walled garden – cut back regeneration growth on snowdrop walk route. Tbc.

Total workout hours statistics not available.

11. Blairhall / Devilla Path project update

Match funding applications had been submitted to FET and LEADER. A provisional funding offer had been received from FET. Frank W and Andy T attending a LARCS training course to input the funding application to LEADER's system.

12. Orchard Garden Project update Year 4

Contractor (MW Groundworks) has commenced work to construct the community area..

A successful training and pruning workout on the stoned fruit trees had been completed on 24th July with Margaret Miller.

Provisional dates suggested for the launch/celebration event of the schools/community seating area were 26/27 September 2017. Invitation to be extended to the seven primary schools who attended the fruit tree planting event and to be P5 pupils only. John R confirmed funding is available for schools' transport costs.

Suggestions for the event: Storyteller, a visit to the archaeological dig site to locate the stables of the former Preston family estate. Other ideas/suggestions welcome.

Post meeting note – proposed dates for schools' event now Tues/Wed 03/04 October.

13. AOCB:

Alan McG advised that the West Fife Ramblers Group, of which he is Secretary, had a sum of monies available that they wished to be used to provide a memorial bench at a suitable woodlands location. Suggestion made to locate it on the new Balgownie/Devilla path when it is constructed.

14. Date of next meeting

The next monthly meeting of the group will on **Thursday 07 September 2017** immediately after the end of the Special General Meeting commencing 7pm at Blairhall Community Centre.

Meeting ended 8.45pm.

Minutes prepared and completed by John Rogers, Secretary, West Fife Woodlands.

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