

West Fife Woodlands



Minutes of Meeting Held at Blairhall Community Centre: Thursday 02 November 2017

Attendance:

Ronnie Collins, John Rogers, Hilda Carmichael, Liz McMullan, Peter McMullan, Alan McGuckin, Alistair Hendry.

1. Chair's Welcome

Vice Chair Ronnie Collins welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Stan Welch, Frank Waterworth, Andy Trumper, Lynda Milne, David Welch.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting 05/10/17

Proposed by Alistair Henry, Seconded by Hilda Carmichael.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Floor Limit expenditure since previous meeting

None

6. Treasurer's Report

John R provided details of the group's current financial position in Frank W's absence.

7. Correspondence

An invitation to members has been received from IFLI to attend their Christmas get-together on Thursday 7th December 2017 between 3pm and 6pm at the Powfoulis Manor Hotel, Bothkennar. John R has emailed members and RSVP's are required by Thursday 16 November.

8. Organisation change to SCIO - update

John R informed members that the group's application to become an SCIO had been submitted and acknowledged. Due to a high demand of applications no further correspondence on the application is expected for at least six weeks. The application process can take up to a maximum of 90 days for completion.

9. IFLI Conference – 11/11/17

Arrangements have been finalised for five members to attend the WFW stall throughout the day. Stan W and Frank W to set up the stall and remain until 1pm. Ronnie C, Andy T, and John R to take over at 1pm and dismantle stall at the end of the event.

10. Group's Christmas Lunch – update

John R confirmed the Adamson Hotel, Crossford, has been booked for the group's Christmas Lunch on Monday 11th December. All attending to meet at the hotel at 12.30pm for a 1pm lunch.

A deposit of £5.00 per person was required with a choice of menu to be made either from the Festive Lunch menu or a choice from the restaurant's main menu available at a discounted price.

Action: John R to advise members by email of menus and arrange collection of deposits by 01 December.

11. Snowdrop Festival 2018

Dates agreed for the Valleyfield Woodland Snowdrop Walks are as follows:

Rehearsal for walk guides: Sunday 29th January 2018

Guided walks for public at 2pm – Saturdays and Sundays

03/04 February

10/11 February

17/18 February

24/25 February

03/04 March

10/11 March

Dated snowdrop leaflets to be ordered and to include recognition of CISWO as a sponsor.

Liz McM suggested an A4 flyer with wording details in gold and a background of green would be attractive and possibly encourage details of the event to be read spontaneously rather than the leaflet by persons wherever it was displayed. John R agreed to seek advice of print designer on suggestion.

Ronnie Collins suggested that with the closure of the Dunfermline Tourist Information Centre, new venues to publicise the Valleyfield event were needed. A possible venue was an information stall in the Kingsgate Shopping Centre manned by members during the weekend 28/29th January prior to the walks commencing.

Ronnie C/John R agreed to visit the Kingsgate management and discuss proposal.

Actions: John R to meet with print designer.

Ronnie C/John R to discuss feasibility of information stall with Kingsgate Centre management.

12. Woodland Workouts – scheduled activities to next meeting

The planned activities for four Mondays are as follows:

06 November

High Valleyfield to Culross path: cut back regeneration growth on path and do litter pick.

13 November

Balgownie Wood: minor maintenance work on path network.

20 November

East Bing: cut back regeneration growth on path network at rear of Bing.

27 November

Valleyfield Woods: continue preparation work on paths for Snowdrop Walks 2018.

04 December

Valleyfield Woods: complete preparation works on paths for Snowdrop Walks 2018.

The statistics update on the total volunteer workout hours completed by WFW members was not available at the meeting due to the Secretary being on holiday during the month.

13. Blairhall to Devilla Forest path project – update

Funding has been agreed by FET and LEADER and letters of confirmation are awaited. The next stage will be to arrange a meeting of all parties concerned including the appointed contractor and to discuss a start date for the works to commence.

14. Valleyfield Woodlands Orchard Garden - update

John R reported that IFLI/HLT has very generously agreed to cover costs for the unsatisfactory community and schools seating works completed recently by contractor MW Groundworks. The current seating will be replaced by new constructed to the specification and standard required. The work will be undertaken by an alternative contractor and a suggestion being considered is to use Graham Construction Ltd who have been appointed as the main contractor for the Blairhall/Devilla Forest path project. A site meeting to estimate the works costs are to be arranged when the contractor is in the area for the path pre-start meeting. Stan W has still to contact IFLI regarding the issue of keeping the orchard as a wild flower meadow. This followed the group’s very labour intensive experience during September and the high number of volunteer hours required to manually remove the vetch before the grasscutter could be used. The proposal if IFLI agree will be to reduce the location of the wildflower meadow to the fence line and or the section in the middle of the orchard.

Action Stan W to speak to IFLI and to take advice from Duncan W and Maggie D on types of suitable weed killer available.

15. AOCB / Date of next meeting

A joint meeting with VHG has been suggested to discuss a possible display of material at Dunfermline Library to mark the bicentenary of the death of Humphry Repton and his influence on the Valleyfield estate. Possible funding for the display may be obtained from IFLI/HLF.

Liz McM will deliver to Geoff Aze at the next Monday workout the first batch of hand tools to be serviced.

Date of next meeting:

The next monthly meeting of the group will be on **Thursday 07 December 2017** commencing 7pm at Blairhall Community Centre.

Meeting ended 8.20pm.

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

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