

# West Fife Woodlands



## Minutes of Meeting Held at Blairhall Community Centre: Thursday 05 October 2017

### Attendance:

Stan Welch, John Rogers, Andy Trumper, Hilda Carmichael, Liz McMullan, Maggie Dagleish, Alistair Hendry.

### 1. Chair's Welcome

Chair Stan Welch welcomed all to the meeting.

### 2. Apologies

Frank Waterworth, Ronnie Collins, Peter McMullan, Emily Le Marie, Alan McGuckin, Lynda Milne, David Welch.

### 3. Minutes of Previous Meeting 07/09/17

Proposed by Alistair Henry, Seconded by Hilda Carmichael.

### 4. Matters Arising

No matters were raised by the group.

### 5. Floor Limit expenditure:

Transfer of funds by IFLI/HLF for website hosting and maintenance annual payment fee of £500.00 for West Fife Villages website. Transferred in via BACS payment to the group's account with an outgoing cheque payment made to the West Fife Villages community group.

### 6. Treasurer's Report

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

### 7. Correspondence

John R and Andy T had attended the RSPB for the Community Awards ceremony at the Scottish Parliament on 13 September. The group were unsuccessful in being nominated for the finalist shortlist at the awards presentation to be held in November.

### 8. FCS update

John R confirmed the final payment of the FCS funding grant had been received.

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

John R updated all members on the current situation. Committee members who wished to apply to be trustees are required to complete a trustee declaration form. The SCIO application forms are in the process of being completed, and a further meeting with Helen Rorrison of Volunteer Scotland to discuss the application and update the group's new draft constitution document has been arranged.

**Action: John R to continue application process and update members of progress at next meeting,**

## **10. Christmas Lunch**

John R advised that he had been checking local restaurants for festive lunch deals and the best option in his opinion was at the Adamson Hotel, Crossford.

Other venues were considered by members, but the unanimous decision was to try the Adamson Hotel this year. A brief discussion followed on the best Monday date in December for the lunch and time. The choice of all members in attendance was Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December and to meet at 12.30pm for a 1pm lunch seating.

**Action: John R to make enquiries with hotel to ascertain if date/time available and make provisional booking with details advised to all members.**

## **11. Woodland Workouts – scheduled activities to next meeting**

The planned activities for four Mondays are as follows:

09 October

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

16 October

Valleyfield Woods walled garden – continue cut back of regeneration growth on snowdrop walk route.

23 October

Balgownie Wood – cut back regeneration growth and path maintenance at the Beech Avenue area.

30 October

East and West Bings

Path maintenance as required.

The total volunteer workout hours completed by WFW members were advised prior to the meeting by email to all members as follows:

Total hours since records commenced 05/09/26 - 1,967 hours.

Total hours completed since previous monthly meeting – 132 hours.

Stan W has still to contact IFLI regarding the issue of keeping the orchard as a wild flower meadow as experienced recently with the amount of hours taken to cut the grass due to vetch. The proposal if IFLI are in agreement will be to reduce the location of the wild flowers 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 and Maggie on types of suitable weed killer available.**

Liz McM raised the question that many of the group's hand tools required maintenance included sharpening. She agreed to approach Geoff Aze to enquire if he would be interested in undertaking the task.

**Post meeting update; Geoff has agreed to do the work necessary**

Some concern was also expressed that tools were being borrowed and in some cases it was known who had the tool. Agreement by all that a "tool loan" record required to be implemented. If a power tool was borrowed it was suggested that a small donation be made by the member concerned to the group's funds towards the maintenance of the tool. John R suggested that an inventory of all the tools owned by the group required to be updated and he was prepared with some assistance to undertake the task. Hilda C agreed to assist.

**Action: John R to implement a tool loan record system.  
Hilda C/John R to prepare an inventory after tool maintenance completed.**

**12. Blairhall / Devilla Path project update**

Andy T advised that Leader had now confirmed the funding of the project and the use of Graham Construction as the contractor. A formal offer letter for the funding was now awaited. The match funder FET has already agreed. Graham Construction had been appointed previously to build the West Bing path and Grange Bridge and had proved to be a good choice. Due to an additional tendering process required by LEADER for the funding of seats and signage on the new path, a decision has been by the group to apply to Paths for All early in the 2018/19 financial year for the finance required.

John le M had updated the Brewster's on the project and Maggie D confirmed Gordon Walker had met her and husband Sandy to discuss similar.

Ronnie C confirmed that Forward West Fife had extended the requirement to use the £10K funding by a further 3 months from the end of September. There was still no news of when LEADER's computer system LARCS would be reinstated for use and it is now inevitable that there will be a delay with the commencement of work on the path.

**13. Orchard Garden Project update Year 4**

A site meeting with Gordon Walker, Project Manager, Simon Trotter for the contractor MW Groundworks, and John R/Andy T representing WFW, had been held to discuss the concerns of the seating area works. Conclusion of the meeting was that MW Groundworks would return to the site and complete the works to the agreed specifications at no additional cost to WFW. No date for the works could be given as additional wooden sleepers would have to be ordered. IFLI have been updated on the issue.

As a consequence of the failings by the contractor, John R confirmed he had no alternative but to cancel a planned school event on 03/04 October.

**14. AOCB:**

None.

**15. Date of next meeting**

The next monthly meeting of the group will on **Thursday 02 November 2017** commencing 7pm at Blairhall Community Centre.

Meeting ended 8.05pm.

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

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