

West Fife Woodlands



Minutes of Meeting Held at Blairhall Community Centre: Thursday 07 December 2017

Attendance:

Ronnie Collins, John Rogers, Stan Welch, Frank Waterworth , Andy Trumper, Lynda Milne, David Welch, Alistair Hendry, Maggie Dalglish.

1. Chair's Welcome

Chair Stan Welch welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Hilda Carmichael, Liz McMullan, and Peter McMullan

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting 02/11/17

Proposed by Alistair Henry, Seconded by John Rogers.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Floor Limit expenditure since previous meeting

None

6. Treasurer's Report

Frank W provided details of the group's current financial position. John R reminded group of the forthcoming expenditure relating to the snow drop walks.

7. Correspondence

John R advised he had been contacted by Carnegie Rotary Club regarding an International ecological event to plant trees. SW suggested we take up the offer and plant trees on the Sterling strip. Trees could also be planted along the new drove road path. The group agreed.

Stan W has also been contacted by a John Keddie, following a referral from CSGNT, regarding his interest in purchasing the Comrie Bings land to create a woodland area. He has asked if WFW would be interested in being involved in the ongoing management of the woodland.

Action-SW and RC will ascertain more information and to report to the group.

8. Organisation change to SCIO - update

John R informed members that the group's application to become an SCIO was being progressed and there was nothing further to report at this stage.

9. Group Christmas lunch update 11/12/17

John R confirmed that there would be 24 attendees at the forthcoming lunch. An excellent expected turnout!

10. Bicentenary Celebration Event of Humphry Repton's Death

John LeM has arranged with Dunfermline Library to hold an exhibition for the whole of February to celebrate the bicentenary of Humphry Repton's death. The event is being funded by IFLI. John LeM has obtained a licence from Historic Environment

Scotland (HES) for the use of the Estate images. There are strict controls placed on the use of these images. The event is to be held in the Reading Room. The Snowdrop leaflets will be displayed in the Reading Room along with a donation box.

The 3 folders owned by WFW on The Valleyfield Estate, have still not been found. John LeM is willing to obtain copies of 20 of the images but WFW must put in place controls to ensure such assets do not go missing again. Such controls will need to be in place once the group obtains charitable status. The remaining 7 images are owned by HES and WFW will need to seek their agreement to obtain and use these images.

11. Snowdrop Festival 2018

Ronnie C and John R have been in discussions with the Kingsgate Centre regarding the positioning of a display in the centre prior to the Snowdrop Festival. Agreement has been reached for the weekend of 27th/28th January. This clashes with the snowdrop training day on 28th so a rota for manning of the display will need to be agreed.

David W provided the group with the names of two photographers who may have photos we could use for the display.

The Therapy Centre has kindly offered to provide teas and coffees as in previous years.

The leaflets are being updated to include the wording that donations would gratefully be accepted. John R advised these will be ready in early January.

Action Stan W is to prepare the guide rota for the Festival.

Visit Scotland has asked for wording for their website at a cost of £50.

Action- John R is preparing this.

Frank W is in contact with Fife Council regarding the placing of the snowdrop banners in Dunfermline. Options under discussion are the Glen Gates and on the Coal Road (Williamson Street). If we are offered both locations WFW will need to purchase a second banner. John R advised that Multiprint will be able to produce this at a cost of £64.

12. Woodland Workouts – scheduled activities to next meeting

The planned activities for three Mondays are as follows:

11 December

The workout will be restricted due to the group Christmas lunch, but the workout will concentrate on trimming and clearing the growth around the hawthorn hedge by the orchard and the footpath along the burn.

18 December

West Bing: minor maintenance work on path network.

8 January

Continue the maintenance work on the west and east bings.

The statistics update on the total volunteer workout hours completed by WFW members since the November meeting was 177.5 hours.

13. Blairhall to Devilla Forest path project – update

Frank W updated the group on the current position. We have the funding in place and the contractor is planning to start early in the New Year. We are still waiting for the Permission document from the Forestry Commission. Frank W has submitted all the paperwork but this is tied up in the annual permission for Balgownie woods and John R is dealing with this.

Frank W and Andy T are to attend further training before Christmas on the processing of payments for Leader.

In respect of the Forward West Fife funding, Ronnie C has spoken to them on this and there should be no issue to extend the offer past the current 3 month extension.

14. Valleyfield Woodlands Orchard Garden - update

Stan W confirmed he had spoken to Kate re the wildflowers in Valleyfield orchard, and she is quite happy for WFW to move the wildflower area outside the fence line.

We also intend to sow wildflowers in the centre section of the orchard.

David W mentioned that Julie indicated IFLI would provide funds for the maintenance of the orchard e.g. spraying.

John R advised that MW Groundworks had still not submitted an invoice for the works to the Community area. IFLI had given the go ahead for the community area to be removed and rebuilt to the correct specification by Graham Construction in January/February 2018.

15. AOCB / Date of next meeting

SW advised that there were issues of condensation in the new container.

Action –a solution to be sought by group.

Lynda M updated the group on the Therapy Centres upcoming Christmas event on 10 December.

Date of next meeting:

The next monthly meeting of the group will be on **Thursday 11 January 2018** commencing 7pm at Blairhall Community Centre.

Meeting ended 8.35pm.

Minutes prepared and completed by Andrew Trumper, Assistant Secretary, West Fife Woodlands.

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