

West Fife Woodlands



Minutes of Meeting Held at Blairhall Community Centre: Thursday 11th January 2018

Attendance:

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

1. Chair's Welcome

Chair Stan Welch welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Lynda Milne

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting 02/11/17

Proposed by Alistair Henry, Seconded by David Welch.

4. Matters Arising

Stan W has agreed to provide a talk on the group's activities to Carnegie Rotary Club on 13th February 2018. This is following the initial contact to John R by a club member and noted at last month's meeting with regard to a Rotary Club International ecological event planned later this year to plant trees.

5. Floor Limit expenditure since previous meeting

Frank W advised that an expenditure of £825.00 had been paid out to MH Landscape Services for administration services at the Valleyfield Woodlands orchard schools and community seating project.

6. Treasurer's Report

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

7. Correspondence

Stan W informed the meeting that he has not yet had the opportunity to contact John Keddie (following a referral from CSGNT) who has an interest in purchasing the Comrie Bings land to create a woodland area. The enquiry made was to ascertain if the group would be interested in the ongoing management of the woodland if it was purchased by the interested party.

Action: SW to contact John Keddie.

John R reported that he had received a request from John and Audrey Stirling, Blairhall Mains Farm for a letter of support from WFW for their funding application to commence the next stage of their proposed diversification development plans for the farm. It was agreed by all to support the request.

Action: John R to write letter of support.

8. Organisation change to SCIO - update

John R advised that he had received an enquiry from the OSCR regarding the group providing work experience placements. He had replied that the only placements agreed by the group were in February/March 2016 involving two persons attending on a Fife Council Exchange Scheme for foreign students.

9. Bi-centenary Celebration Event of Humphry Repton's Death

John R confirmed that John Le Marie has arranged with Dunfermline Carnegie Library for an exhibition/display to be set up in the Reading Room to celebrate the bicentenary of Humphry Repton's death. There will also be the opportunity to publicise the Valleyfield Snowdrop Festival at the same time with leaflets and a donation box. The library will publicise the event to run from 01st February to the end of the month on their Facebook page and other media sources they have available. The event will also be included in the group's press release and on the WFV website article for the Snowdrop Festival. John Le Marie has agreed to do the latter. The 3 folders owned by WFW on The Valleyfield Estate, have still not been found. John LeM has had copies of 20 of the images made and Andy T is arranging the necessary licence requirements for the group on the remaining 7 Estate images owned by HES in order that they can be used.

The folders will also require to have description text for each photo and John R has agreed to complete this task hopefully in time for the start of the Snowdrop Walks.

Action: John R to include library exhibition details in Snowdrop Festival press release and complete preparatory work on new folders.

10. Snowdrop Festival 2018

Ronnie C and John R confirmed that the group have agreed with the Kingsgate Centre for a Snowdrop Festival display stall to be manned for weekend of 27th/28th January. This clashes with the snowdrop training day on the 28th and a rota for the manning of the display was discussed and agreed as follows: Saturday 27th – 10am to 1pm Stan Welch/Ronnie Collins, 1pm – 4pm Frank Waterworth/David Welch. Sunday 28th – 12pm to 3pm Hilda Carmichael/John Rogers.

All members who wish to volunteer as guides for the walks need to contact Stan W preferably before the rehearsal walk. An updated crib sheet, Risk Assessment and Emergency Procedures documents have been prepared and will be emailed to guides. The Therapy Riding Centre has kindly offered to provide teas and coffees as in previous years. The previous arrangements are to apply if there are no participants to a walk. The guide is to contact the Riding Centre staff on duty by 2.10pm to advise they are not required.

Action: Stan W is to prepare the guide rota for the Festival and advise the Riding Centre of details.

Advise all guides at the rehearsal walk of the procedure for contacting the Riding Centre staff if no participants for a walk,

Frank W has been in contact with Fife Council regarding the placing of the snowdrop banner in Dunfermline at the Coal Road (Williamson Street) location inside the Glen car park area. The earliest date the location could be used is after 8th February due to a banner currently displaying an event on that date. A lengthy discussion followed on the issue and an alternative option of using the main road thru Carnock was agreed as a better option. The best location agreed will be on Carnock PS railings adjacent to the bus stop.

Action: Ronnie C to confirm arrangements for banner location with Carnock PS Headteacher.

11. Woodland Workouts – scheduled activities to next meeting

The planned activities for three Mondays are as follows:

15 January

Explore feasibility of new path – East Bing

22 January

Continue feasibility and exploratory route of possible new path – East Bing

Post meeting note: workout location changed to footpath maintenance on the West Bing.

29 January

Fruit tree pruning – Valleyfield Orchard. All members to be reminded to bring a pair of secateurs.

John R provided a statistics update on the total volunteer workout hours completed by WFW members during 2017: 1,689 hours.

Since records commenced Sept 2016: 2,356 hours

Well done to all members involved.

12. Blairhall to Devilla Forest path project – update

Frank W updated the group on the current position. The contractor is due to commence work at the site on Wednesday 17th January 2018.

Frank requested that if any members receive any enquiries regarding the project works they should pass details to him and he will forward them to the project manager Gordon Walker to respond. The landowners will be asked to contact the project manager direct for any information/enquiries.

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.

13. Valleyfield Woodlands Orchard Garden - update

John R advised that MW Groundworks had now submitted an invoice for the works to the Schools and Community seating area and he had submitted details to IFLI for payment in due course.

IFLI has given the go ahead for the seating to be removed and rebuilt to the correct specification by Graham Construction during January/February 2018. A request for costs to undertake this work has been requested ASAP from the contractor via Gordon Walker to permit IFLI to offset the amount required from their projects budget

14. AOCB / Date of next meeting

Shiresmill car park

John R proposed that the proceeds of donations received from the Snowdrop Festival be used to improve the car park surface. It is often a quagmire on even wet summer days and there are numerous potholes. It is not car friendly for any users and discourages visitors to the woodlands.

The STRC have been requested to consider the proposal and will hopefully agree to permit their share of the donations to be used towards the improvement work.

Ronnie C has estimated the cost to lay 40 tons of stone chips over the surface at £400.00.

Details of the work and agreement to proceed will be obtained from Fife Council.

The next monthly meeting of the group will be on **Thursday 01 February 2018** commencing 7pm at Blairhall Community Centre.

Meeting ended 8.55pm.

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