

West Fife Woodlands

Registered Charity No. SCO48093



Minutes of Meeting

Held at Blairhall Community Centre: Thursday 5th April 2018

Attendance

Stan Welch, Frank Waterworth (part of meeting), David Welch, Alistair Hendry, Hilda Carmichael, Liz McMullan, Andy Trumper, Maggie Dagleish, Ronnie Collins and Lynda Milne.

1. Chair's Welcome

Chair Stan Welch welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

John Rogers and Peter McMullan. Stan W wished to pass on the group's best wishes to Peter M and hopes he recovers quickly under Liz's guidance.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting 11/01/18

Proposed by Liz McMullan, Seconded by Hilda Carmichael.

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Floor Limit expenditure since previous meeting

Expenditure since the last meeting (February 2018) that is over £200.00

- 1) MW Groundworks £4213.14
- 2) Graham Developments £11,725.10
- 3) Graham Developments £4159.52

6. Treasurer's Report

Frank W provided details of the group's current financial position. So far two interim invoices have been submitted by Graham Developments for work on the Muirhead-Devilla footpath. Funding from FET and Leader has been very prompt with FET within two days and Leader within a week.

£718 was raised through donations at this year's Snowdrop Festival.

Frank W advised he has still to progress the setting up of the new bank account as required by the SCIO.

7. Correspondence

Stan W advised he had received an e mail from someone wanting to join the group.

8. Date of First AGM as an SCIO

Andy T referred to John R e mail to the Trustees regarding the proposal to move the AGM to September or October. He read out John R recommendations. The group has 15 months from becoming a Charity to hold its first AGM. It was felt that as May was a popular holiday month, September or October would probably be more suited to all. There were 6 proposed Trustees at the meeting and all agreed with John R's recommendation.

9. Facebook/media-groups policy

Andy T raised concerns that inappropriate messages were being put on our Facebook page and we should look at how we can operate this strictly to remove such content as promptly as possible. Lynda M referred to the Therapy Centre's National page which has a clear policy statement at the top of the page advising that abusive and inappropriate content would not be tolerated and such persons putting on such statements would be blocked. LM will send RC and AT this statement.

Action RC will control the page and will block going forward.

It was also discussed and agreed we should utilise the West Fife Villages web page more.

Action AT to contact Davie Scott.

The group needs to attract younger people to the group though it was acknowledged this was difficult when our workout was on a Monday. LM suggested we contact some businesses such as Mossmorran who have sent out apprentices to help. SW pinpointed such projects as the canal in Valleyfield.

Action LM will provide contact names to the group.

10. Wildflower Meadow Seed-Countryside legislation

JR has carried out some investigation around the planting of wildflower seeds. JR issued an email to all prior to the meeting.

Garden 'wildflower' seed mixes and/or plants (which may contain non-natives or be of unknown provenance) should not be sown in the wider countryside or close to environmentally sensitive areas. They should also never be sown without a landowner's permission.

JR made an enquiry to Fife Council to ascertain if there was any legislation governing use of wildflower seed in the wider countryside. This was confirmed as The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act.

SW confirmed he had spoken to Andrew Clark on this and he was going to investigate in respect of planting on Forestry land.

The group have been given seeds from RSPB but it was agreed we would check on the contents and only use if native. We would also go to suppliers such as Scotia Seeds.

11. Snowdrop Festival 2018

The snowdrop walks had received total donations for WFW and the Therapy Riding Centre of £718. This money would be used for purchasing graded stone chips for the car park. RC has investigated and the cost was in the region of £780-£800 for 40 tons. **AH agreed to approach contacts to see if he can obtain a more competitive price. MD will also speak to her contacts.**

It was agreed we would carry out the work on a Monday as this suited the Riding Therapy Centre. The car park would be relocated during the work. **DW would investigate.**

12. Woodland Workouts – scheduled activities to next meeting

The planned activities for four Mondays are as follows:

9th April

To continue with preparing the viewpoint meadow for wild flowers on the West Bing.

16 April

The transfer of snowdrops from an agreed area to improve areas on the Snowdrop Festival route. If there are enough volunteers then work will be carried out on the footpath above the burn behind the ice cave.

23rd April

Work to be carried out on the footpath joining the forestry tracks in Balgownie.

UPDATE Stone chips are to be delivered for the car park so this will take priority.

30th April

Balgownie Wood's path maintenance as directed.

The programme of work has been affected by the ground conditions following the extreme winter weather. We need to allow areas to dry out. We also need piles of blaes to be dumped at agreed points by Scott Construction.

13. Blairhall to Devilla Forest path project – update

No work has been carried out due to weather and ground conditions. Gordon Walker was hoping work would recommence during week of 16th April.

14. Valleyfield Woodlands Orchard Garden - update

IFLI has given the go ahead for the seating to be removed and rebuilt to the correct specification by Graham Construction. Work has not started due to poor ground conditions. It is hoped the work will commence during week of 16th April.

DW mentioned he had seen the use of aluminium tags at Cambo which can be written on in pencil and then overwritten when required. **Action: Agreed these would be useful for the orchard. DW to investigate.**

14. AOCB / Date of next meeting

DW had been contacted by a tree expert. DW gave him JR's contact details. SW and RC attended a meeting organised by Culross Community Council regarding the production of a walking guide. To review to include footpaths maintained by WFW. **Action SW/RC to look at options on how WFW can assist and also funding of this guide.**

Postscript: We did not speak about the proposed IFLI event in June. This was spoken about afterwards and SW was to speak to Kate.

Thursday 03 May 2018 commencing 7pm at Blairhall Community Centre.

Meeting ended 8.55pm.

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

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