

West Fife Woodlands



Notes of Meeting

Held at Blairhall Community Centre: Thursday 7th March 2019

Members Meeting

Attendance

Alistair Hendry(AH), Frank Waterworth (FW), Andy Trumper (AT) Stan Welch (SW).
Liz McMullan (LMc) and Peter McMullan (PMc).

1. Chair's Welcome

Chair Stan Welch welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Lynda Milne, Hilda Carmichael, Alan McGuckin, Maggie Dalglish, Ronnie Collins, and David Welch.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting 7/2/19

Proposed by Alistair Hendry, Seconded by Frank Waterworth.

4. Matters Arising

- FW confirmed he had corresponded with IFLI approving the refixing of the interpretation board. IFLI will advise of a date. **FW**
- The gate into Valleyfield Woods from the car park is to be moved 15m down track at request of TRC.
- New WFW cards are now available, thanks to Ronnie, and are held in the container.
- AT has a contact at Speyside Fields for Wildlife and will ask for information on the planting of wild flower fields as shown on Winterwatch. **AT**
- AH looking at options to hire a scarifier for the orchard **AH**

5. Treasurer's Report

- FW provided details of the group's current financial position.
- Expenditure over the "floor limit" of £200 this month- £210 to Ronnie for maps. £1,200 to Graham Construction for agreed additional works.
- Waiting for payment from FET regarding latest footpath valuation. Expected this week.
- FW has received the final report from FET for completion **FW**
- FW confirmed the project managers fees will be paid this week.

6. Correspondence

- FW highlighted WFW are to commission a structural report on the Grange Burn bridge. This is now due SW to speak to Richard Smith **SW**.
- AT advised that James Hand of the Forestry Commission had sent details of deer fencing renewal/ removal around Balgownie. This may help improve the path over the water meadow.
- AT read out John Le Marie email regarding the option for the group to enter the Garden Trust Sharing Landscapes competition to win a Humphry Repton

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bust. Due to other commitments it was agreed by all at the meeting that WFW would not be making an entry.

- AT informed the group that a grant is available through OWLS (Outdoor and Woodland Learning Scotland) to celebrate 100 years of the Forestry Commission. AT will go back with some ideas.
- AT has received an email from Sue Walker of IFLI who have been awarded a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant to allow them to work with local communities and organisations to co-create eight day-long heritage walking and/or cycling trails around the Inner Forth through a project called Inner Forth Wanderings and Windings. The routes will use existing paths and tracks to encourage local people and visitors to the area to explore the landscape and discover some of the many hidden gems to be found around the Inner Forth. WFW and its members have been asked to join the Facebook page where further information will be made available. AT has informed Sue of our footpath network plans and she has confirmed IFLI interest in working with WFW. **AT**

7. Projects and Funding

- Fife Council have confirmed their support of WFW to carry out non-structural repairs to the bridges, and general maintenance in Valleyfield Woods.
- Funding through SMF was also discussed. AT will manage the paperwork required.
- SW to sort out application to Forestry Commission re enlargement of pond on the wet lands.

8. Membership

No new applications for membership received.

9. Training

SW has spoken to Andrew Clark re training courses and details will be forthcoming. Priority is to meet requirements for a quad bike on forestry land. **SW**

10. Snowdrop Walks-sub-committee update

The snowdrop walks have been well attended and so far over £650 in donations has been raised. £360 has also been raised through the sale of maps.

11. Muirhead to Devilla Forest path project – update

- FW confirmed that MD was happy with the new gates.
- Signage required on footpath including farm road sign at the Brewster's section.
- SW suggested the group reduce the wind dust on the Brewsters section. To speak to Brewster's first.

12. Path network signage

SW reminded the sub committee of the proposed walk next Wednesday to formulate the signage requirements for The West Fife Woodlands Way.

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13. Woodland Workouts – scheduled activities to next meeting

The planned activities as follows:

11th March- Transplant snowdrops to areas affected by the recent works. Team leader SW.

18th March – Transplant snowdrops to areas affected by the recent works. Team leader SW.

25th March- Clear new growth along the fenceline to the deer park at Valleyfield Woods. Team leader SW.

1st April- Cut and clear grass outside the orchard. Team leader SW.

14. AOCB / Date of next meeting

SW has been approached by Gordon walker on behalf of Fife Council if WFW would be interested in removing an old rabbit fence in Valleyfield Woods near to main A road. To assess this on Monday.

The new brushcutter has been taken into Forth Grass Machinery for a service. Major work required. Maybe cost effective to replace. **SW**

Next Meeting -Thursday 4th April commencing 7pm at Blairhall Community Centre.

Meeting ended 9.00 pm.

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

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