



Note of Meeting

Held at Blairhall Community Centre Thursday 7th November 2019

Attendance:

Stan Welch (SW), David Welch (DW), Alastair Hendry(AH), Ronnie Collins (RC), Alan McGuckin (AM), Andy Trumper (AT), Maggie Dalglish (MD)

1. Chair's Welcome

Chair: Stan Welcomed all to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Liz McMullan, Frank Waterworth, Peter McMullan, and Hilda Carmichael.

3. Appointment of Office Bearers

Stan Welch –Chair

Ronnie Collins –Vice Chair

Frank Waterworth-Treasurer

Andy Trumper-Secretary

There were no other nominees.

The Trustees present and the 4 unable to attend (via email to the Secretary) had agreed unanimously to the appointments.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Proposed by AT, seconded by AH.

5. Matters Arising

a).Members of the group had visited The Den's open day.

b).FW and SW met with owners of open cast mine regarding Saline to Comrie path.

There is to be another meeting shortly with all interested parties.

c) AT confirmed he had received the Agreement to extend for further 5 years from Fife Council. AT to check.

d) AT confirmed he had received, signed and returned the Forestry Commission Permission for 2020.

e) Following discussion it was agreed to keep monthly meeting to first Thursday of month and may review moving to second Thursday as and when it suits the members and also fits in with Blairhall community Centre.

f) WFW manned a stall at the IFLI event in Pittencrieff Park.

6. Treasurer's Report

In FW absence, AT gave the group an update on WFW finances.

There was no expenditure in October.

The group has received funding of £600 from Paths For All for signage of West Fife Woodlands Way. WFW is grateful for this support.

The group was successful in its application to Fife Council Volunteering Matters Action Earth Grant for £100 to purchase wild flower seeds.

Culross Community Council have kindly donated £100 to the group, to which SW wished to record the group's thanks.

No money has yet been received from Fife Council for the bridge repairs or removal of the fence as previously agreed.

7. Correspondence

a) AT referred to Andrew Clarks email inviting group to a community consultation meeting to discuss their plans for planting and management of new woodland on the former opencast site at Blairhouse, Oakley on 12 November. LMc, PMc and SW to attend.

b). AT has arranged a meeting with Alistair Mutch, Fife Council on 22 November to discuss our projects. SW,AT, FW and LMc to attend. Other Trustees may also attend.

8 Projects and funding

SW and AH to view a trailer on 9th November with a view to purchase.

AT raised the need for Snowdrop sub-committee to meet to discuss 2020 guided walks.

AT to email sub-committee HC, SW, FW and AT.

RC showed group the Fife Council booklet of events in which we should investigate advertising in.

AT received invite from Discover Scottish Gardens to advertise Snowdrop Walks. To discuss with FW.

Agreed the Snowdrop Guided Walk's will start first w/e in February to first w/e in March.

RC suggested we rename walks. Eg Snowdrop and Heritage guided walks.

9. Bluther Burn

Concern was raised by RC on West Fife Woodland Facebook page about the pollution in the Bluther Burn. However the Trustees at the meeting were concerned that the post referred to the alleged polluter. The post was removed.

It was agreed that Facebook could be used to record incidents of pollution but not refer to the source. It was agreed that any action by the group should be discussed at the WFW meetings with all trustees.

SW requested that the group should formally write to SEPA. A meeting to be held between SW,RC and AT to draft such a letter.

It is noted that in light of the post being deleted from Facebook RC had archived the West Fife Woodlands Facebook page.

Membership

AM reported that there were no new membership applications received during the month. Two potential new members, Ann Thompson and Peter Scott to be supplied with Membership forms.

11. Training

AT reported the cost of the training to be circa £2,500 depending on numbers volunteering. Trustees at meeting agreed it was necessary to proceed. Dates agreed are 2nd and 16th December. Training to be held at TRC. Thanks to TRC for providing accommodation for training.

SW, DW, Duncan and Grant confirmed. Waiting for Ruth Thompson.

AT advised he may also volunteer for the course. AMc also was interested but couldn't make the dates.

12 Path network signage sub -committee update.

Sub-committee to organise meeting.

13. Woodland workouts.

AH has organised with quarry to deliver blaise to Valleyfield in order that repair work can be carried out on the side paths in woods.

11th November-Clear path to underpass to High Valleyfield.

18th November- Start work on clearing the Snowdrop walk.

25th November- Subject to obtaining the Forestry Permission, to start work in Balgownie Woods.

2nd December- Continue work on Snowdrop walk route.

14 AOCB

a) MD raised concern as to the slippery surface of bridge over Grange Burn. Group agreed to investigate a solution.

b) AT, in HC absence, confirmed an invite has been issued to all members to the Adamson Christmas lunch on 9th December. HC has booked the venue.

Date of next Meeting

Thursday 5th December, 7:00 pm.