

Dunbar Community Woodland Group
Committee Meeting of 28 August 2001
Held in Dunbar Community School offices
Meeting Minutes

Present

S Bell, J Cowan, M James, M Johnston, R Lesso, S Panton, P Revell (chair), K Ross, J Thomson, K Wilson.

Apologies

C Elliot, Councillor Hampshire

KR opened by stating that he had met with the owner, and that they were basically happy with, and accepted in principle, the amended proposals that the DCWG had put forward. The agreement of the council would have to be sought.

KR had initially thought that the DCWG wanted to take on the work at this stage. However the DCWG explained that they did not have the capacity to do this.

MJ expressed the concern that it was two years down the line, and no work had yet been done. She was of the opinion that once some of the major work of the management plan had been undertaken eg. the paths etc., the group could take over.

As to the areas of woodland outside the area described in the management plan, ie. the woodlands set to become part of the proposed golf course (marked as **compartments 11 and 12** on our own survey of the woods): KR said that these would be subject to management by the golf course. PR brought up the issue of dead trees in these areas, and danger from these. KR said that the issue of the future of these parts of the woods was under review.

There was discussion about the newly proposed **kick-about/play area**. There would be a need for some tree felling here. In the rest of the wood: any dead or dangerous trees should also be taken down. SB suggested that some dead trees could be cut down to ~7 feet off the ground –to leave as eg. woodpecker habitat.. Some of the timber could be chipped for surfacing, some left lying as logs, some made into benches and sculptures in the play area. Some wood could be left for people to take as firewood.

SB proposed that dangerous trees could be sprayed red, others not dangerous but needing to be removed within the play area, yellow. **KR said that if the group could identify these trees by the end of September, he could get contractors to start work in October.**

MJ asked if, beyond the major items of the play area, the paths, and the necessary felling of dangerous trees, would the group be willing to take on the rest of the aspects of the management plan. The group would be happy with this. MJ said that there would be a need for a revised management plan.

Dead and dangerous trees would not require a felling licence, but there is a requirement for a licence to be obtained for those (healthy) trees requiring to be felled to open up the play area. **DCWG will liaise with the Forestry Commission to organise this.**

KR asked if there were any other interested parties who were opposed to our initiative. PR replied that, if there were, they had yet to come forward and that to the best of our knowledge the answer was no. KR said that he did not necessarily expect otherwise, but it was incumbent on him to ask the question.

PR asked if KR would be prepared to sponsor some of the cost of the membership leaflets that the group was distributing, particularly to all the new houses.

JT brought up the fact that some of the **culverts** were in need of repair. KR stated categorically that the East of Scotland Water Authority had responsibility for their maintenance. JT said that the manhole near Hallhill Steadings was dangerous as it had fallen into the culvert. SB noted that we need to be aware of the danger of heavy (timber extracting) machinery damaging the culverts. PR will speak to Dave Holloway at SEPA concerning the smell of sewage from the burn where it enters the culvert.

The **pond** at the south-most point of the woods: KR states that algal bloom had been caused by run-off, which the Scottish Roads Directorate is responsible for. He is seeking resolution with them. After which, landscaping can take place. He states further that the SRD accepts that they have discharged into the pond without consent.

PR flagged the issue of danger at the end of the primary path (the **former entrance into the estate**) where it abuts the A1 (until a cycle track is built beside the new dual carriageway). It was agreed that the track was not for horses, and that horses could/would use the concrete track to Hallhill Steadings.

KR asked if the group would be prepared to undertake **signage** in the woods. (Eg. Waymarking, educational, code of behaviour etc.) The group would be happy to take responsibility for designing and specifying this.

The **priorities** were established as follows: **Primary path, removal of dangerous trees, landscaping of the play area, remainder of path network.**

PR asked about the lack of a **crossing where the primary path meets the main road**. KR said that there was a problem here with the road authority, and in effect they had ruled it out here, and expected the road crossing to happen further to the North up the road.

MJ requested that there should be room on the main track for bicycles.

MJ asked what the time-scale of the **revised management plan** should be expected to be. PR said we should be able to produce a draft in two months. MJ pointed out that it would have to be approved by the planning department.

KR stated that, to comply with Health and Safety legislation, dead and dangerous trees outwith the area delineated within the current management plan (compartment 11 and 12) would also be taken down.

Next meeting of the group: 7.30pm, Tuesday 4th September, Community Schools Offices

3) Previous minutes: Approved.

4) Matters arising

a) School Logo: 3rd years will produce a logo

5) Contact with Ken Ross/ELC

6) Date of next meeting

Thursday, 25 April 2001 at 19.30 hours, Dunbar Community Education Offices.