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**Dunbar Community Woodland Group
Committee Meeting of 18 December 2001
Held in Hallhill Healthy Living Centre
Meeting Minutes**

ACTION

Present

Simon Bell, Jonathan Cowan, Chris Eden, Colin Elliot, Mark James, Munro Gauld (Reforestation Scotland), Philip Revell (chair), Nichola Stewart.

1) Apologies

Norman Hampshire, Susan Panton, Jim Thomson, Kay Wilson.

2) Previous minutes:

Please note the spelling of Sarvanis within the meeting minutes of 20 November.

3) Matters arising

- a) (3a) WT Woodland survey: No change PR to continue to pursue receipt of final report.
- b) (4) Chrysse Sarvanis: There is as yet no word whether she wishes to pursue a dissertation topic based on Lochend.
- c) (5) New membership form. PR still updating map. Newsletter to go out after Xmas.

PR

PR

4) Participatory Forestry Appraisal (PFA)

PR introduced Munro Gauld of Reforestation Scotland and invited him to address the meeting with regard to PFA.

MG introduced PFA firstly by outlining some of the principles of this appraisal method. These include and emphasis of equality and the importance of taking on board the ideas of all parties. Upon completion there was therefore a moral and practical justification in implementing a strategy that embraced the outcomes of a PFA. There were many reasons for carrying out a PFA which may be specific and unique to individual community groups and thus it was important for groups to ascertain the needs and objectives of carrying out a PFA.

Ultimately the tool demonstrated that a democratic process of decision-making had been followed and this would be particularly important to prospective funders of woodland schemes in the future.

The process would be contracted to independent facilitators who would engage at the local level in a number of ways. The cost of the PFA would be met entirely by grants and there would be no expense for the group.

In terms of a time-frame MG was keen for the process to be completed before the end of March and the committee also expressed the view that it would be useful to have the PFA carried out early.

MG stressed the importance of the group setting objectives that would then be communicated to contractors to be appointed by Reforesting Scotland. CE to draft some initial objectives and circulate to the committee members for comment.

CE

5) Report Back from Meeting with David Wilson

PR reported that SB and himself had met with DW earlier that day. DW had confirmed that he had been appointed by Ken Ross to conclude negotiations for the transfer of the Woods to ELC/DCWG.

DW advised that James Brown, Tynninghame had been appointed contractor for the works to the woods. There had been some debate about the number of trees to be felled.

It was agreed that DW and his Client would meet with Norman Hampshire, Maree Johnston and DCWG representatives on 8 January with a view to agreeing the works specification and for the contractor commencing work in early January.

PR to liaise with James Brown to establish when felling will commence. This can then be advertised to the public.

PR

MG to send information on tree safety and management charges.

MG

6) Any Other Business

- a) Broxmouth House: NS/CE to establish new ownership with a view to approaching proprietor and setting up liaison with regard to the Deer Park.
- b) SP had offered to stand down from the committee but it was agreed the committee, given her valuable contribution, would be happy if she were prepared to continue on for the present if she was willing.
- c) The church had asked if DCWG would be willing to send representatives to a reception for new residents and CE agreed to attend.

NS/CE

CE

7) Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 22 January 2002 at 7.30 p.m. Venue to be Healthy Living Centre.