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**Dunbar Community Woodland Group
Committee Meeting of 22 January 2002
Held in Hallhill Healthy Living Centre
Meeting Minutes**

ACTION

Present

Karen Chambers (Margin Consultants), Jonathan Cowan, Chris Eden, Colin Elliot, Philip Revell (chair), Karen Thomas, Kay Wilson.

1) Apologies

Simon Bell, Susan Panton, Nichola Stewart

2) Previous minutes:

Approved.

3) Matters arising

- a) (3a) SWT: final report sections coming.
- b) (4) Chysse Sarvanis: no change
- c) (5) New brochures being printed.

4) Report from Meeting with David Wilson and ELC re Transfer of Land Ownership

CE reported that Simon Bell and himself representing the group had met with David Wilson (representing Ken Ross), Maree Johnston and Neil Clark (both representing ELC) on 8 January. The objective of the meeting was to seek to enter into a new agreement between ELC, DCWG and Ken Ross which would allow the current management agreement between ELC and Ken Ross to be revoked.

There had been general agreement on the kick about area, path network and tree felling. Considerable discussion took place in regard to the pond at the southern end of the wood and drainage generally. The developer is now understood to be appointing an engineer to look at the option to drain the pond. This was not a proposal that Dunbar Community Woodland Group or ELC supported and CE felt that whilst the developer has the right to execute such works it was very unlikely that he would carry out such un-approved works and thus threaten the goodwill being built up amongst the parties.

The other area of debate was in regard to the remains of Lochend house or chapel which the developer wished to demolish. Subsequent to the meeting the Local Planning Authority had deemed the ruin grade A listed and the developer formally notified that on no account should they execute any works whatever on the structure without full authority.

There were various other matters such as later transfer phases that were touched upon but were left for later discussion.

David Wilson offered to submit a proposal on behalf of his client to ELC in the early course.

PR to establish from Norman Hampshire the current position on progress generally and on the outcome of his enquiries to East of Scotland Water.

PR

5) Participatory Forestry Appraisal (PFA)

PR introduced and welcomed Karen Chambers of Margin Consultants to the meeting. Karen is to be responsible for the execution of the PFA and was invited to address the committee.

KC explained that it was of particular importance for her to understand what has happened and what is happening in regard to the management of the wood.

A key resource for her will be a good plan of the wood and it was agreed she would approach Maree Johnston to obtain this. PR to provide KC with MJ email address. Another essential need is a good list of contacts and CE agreed to forward her a list of local groups and societies this week.

PR

CE

PR explained the role of Dunbar Community Development Company who, it was originally envisaged would become successors in title with the wood being managed by Dunbar Community Woodland Group. The meeting felt that ownership could be an issue for the PFA exercise.

With regard to the period the PFA would take place this was provisionally agreed in the two weeks commencing Monday, 4 March. A major meeting was proposed for Tuesday 5 March. A final exhibition was suggested for Saturday 16 March with a drop-in meeting to occur between these meetings. KC suggested the committee consider the best dates and venues in order to achieve maximum local participation. Venues suggested were Healthy Living Centre, one of the schools, the library and the Corn Exchange.

Once the dates have been finalised arrangements will be made to advertise the exercise via the local press. KC suggested the new homes be leafleted.

It was agreed the web-site would be used in the exercise; KC and JC to liaise accordingly.

JC

CE

KC would like include a summary of the management plan as part of the public consultation. CE to establish from Simon Bell if he would wish to summarise or leave to KC to adjust.

CE

6) Broxmouth Estate and Limitations to Access

JC explained that notices to the entrances to the estate had recently been erected warning people off unless “on official business”. He understands the new owners are Dunhan Leisure. Given there is a belief that some public right of access may exist, JC to investigate via the local ranger, Victor Lough and CE to speak with Alison Cosgrove in ELC legal department.

JC

CE

7) Any Other Business

None

8) Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 26 February 2002 at 7.30 p.m. Venue to be Healthy Living Centre. J. Affleck of the Forestry Commission to be invited to this meeting.

PR