



**November 1st 2011 Minutes of Dunbar Community Woodland Group
Committee Meeting held in Dunbar Library**

Present - Simon Bell (Convenor), Philip Revell, Isobel Campbell, Eva Hurley, Keith Renshaw, Ute Penny

Apologies - Isobel Knox, Andy Morris, Jayne Chappell, Jacquie Bell, David Andrews

1. Meeting opened by SB

2. Approval of Minutes - minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th September reviewed and accepted as correct

3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes -

- a) EH's empty garage is no longer empty and she now has some of our equipment stored in it - she still has more room...!
- b) Barley straw has now been placed in the pond. It will take a while before it will hopefully take effect, but EH said that she would monitor it.

4. Inspection Report(s) and Issues Arising -

IK inspected the woods around the 13th October and found:

- a) The main sign is very damaged.
- b) The new paths have become overgrown in parts
- c) The path at the back of John Muir Crescent is overgrown with nettles
- d) The Gathering Place has a fair few Ash popping up amongst the nettles/grass
- e) The area opposite IC's house (field on Brodie Road, where brash pile spread) has loads of regeneration of Ash and Sycamore and even a wee Oak

f) The edge of Kellie Road has a load of brambles dangling over the footpath

g) A few Rhododendrons are popping up by the side of the Carriage Drive

h) What looks to be garden weed spreading like wildfire, with bright red berries

SB had also received an e-mail from a resident complaining about the litter in the woods. In it, he says that he frequently picks up litter and considers that it is a health hazard. He appreciates that we are all volunteers, but thinks that we should be organizing more frequent litter picks. Finally, he says that if nothing appears to be done about it, he will inform Environmental Health.

All of the above, was discussed at great length and one of the points made, was that it raises the issue of how frequent/infrequent our inspections are and that we need to address this. To this end, it was decided that some of us will go into the woods on **Sunday 13th November** and **Sunday 27th November**, to try and finish the tree planting, but also to litter pick and inspect the woods as well. So we will meet at 11 am at The Gathering Place.

SB will reply to the resident, not only to thank him for raising this issue, but also to invite him to join the group/committee, if he is not already a member.

Re the red berried plant, SB thinks it looks like Woody Nightshade a common woodland plant.

The problem with the sycamore trees was discussed and both SB and PR think that it is because the ground is water-logged there, that the trees appear to be dying. KR agreed and said that at times it is impassable. We will have to take those trees down at some point.

An e-mail received from IK today as follows:

50 trees planted randomly in the woods this afternoon with the Torness folk - 9 DGS kids and 9 Torness folk.

They are planted in among the dying sycmores, hawthorns at the edge, Alder birch and scots pines scattered.

A beautiful afternoon

5. Financial Statement - JC e-mailed the financial statement to SB. It is as follows:

Just a quick email to update you on the finances. Bank account sits at £3159.42 but I wrote a couple of cheques recently (£380 was the main one for Gary the strimming man - £200 of which I think we're getting back and Lothian printers) and paid £30 or £40 in from membership – should bring the balance to around £2600 (plus £200 to come back) so just needs monitoring. I've given the cheque book and paying-in book to Ute and confirmed with BoS that cheque signatories are currently you, me, Isobel K, Philip and Stella Quarry.

I have the bank statements up to mid Sept. I need to write to BoS with a new address and wasn't sure whether to use my Edinburgh one or someone's in Dunbar. I'm still happy to have them but difficult for me to keep track of things without cheque and paying in books.

At the meeting tonight perhaps you could decide on address for bank statements and let me know and I will write to BoS to update them. Also I need the accounts that were submitted to OSCR last year to finalise this years accounts (to Sept 2011) – I presume Alan has these? If anyone is in touch with Alan perhaps they could get them off him?

SB said that the bank statements can go to him and he will contact Alan Kilpatrick re the accounts.

6. Membership Statement - AM unable to attend, but IC has a pile of membership forms from IK and will pass them on to AM for processing.

7. Events, Publicity and PR Aspects -

a) Tree planting - went well on Sunday, with quite a few people who turned out for the event. Unfortunately, no teenagers.

PR raised the question of trees to be planted around the pond and he also said that he would like to create an area for coppicing. Although some trees have already been planted in the wet area (see above), it was suggested that Willows might also be planted there, for coppicing and to deal with the water-logging problem.

b) Publicity - earlier on in the meeting when we were discussing inspections and communicating what we find, we discussed exploring Google apps, with a view to seeing if we could set up a calendar, to which we could add things like when meetings are due. PR said that he would look into this, but later on, IC asked if we had a Facebook Page. It was felt that it might be a good idea to set one up and that it might make it easier for us to communicate and we could also add photos to it. UP and EH are to look into this and possibly set one up. It

would only be committee members who could upload photos on it and/or start a new thread.

8. DCDC Liaison - Nothing to report

9. Forestry Commission Grants - SB explained how DCDC owe us money and that they/we are still waiting payment from the Forestry Commission.

10. Next Meeting - Monday 28th November 8pm - venue to be confirmed.
IC to organise

11. AOCB -



Christmas Dinner - this is going to have to be after Christmas and we thought we would defer this to the next meeting, but IC is going to start another one of those Doodle Doc thing, to see if we can organise a date suitable for as many as possible. Hopefully, it will be at The Volunteer Arms again.

Watch this space...