

Oct 30th 2013 Minutes of Dunbar Community Woodland Group Committee Meeting - Hallhill Sports Centre

Committee Members Present - Simon Bell, Isobel Knox (IK), David Bates, Ute Penny, Eva Hurley (chair), Morag Haddow, Nick Parker, Mark James, Craig Stebbing,

Others –Max Schonwalder, Alistair Clark (AC), Gordon Nicolson (GN), Dan Waters, Darren Lindsay, Wendy Cuthbertson, Sue Anderson, Yasmin Stoneybanks

Apologies – Isobel Campbell, Brian Grindley, Simon Bell

1. Pump Track (PT)

There was a lively discussion led by AC with MS and GN asking further questions. There was an enthusiasm for getting the pump track finished. However, it was agreed that the plan had been over ambitious, and misuse and lack of maintenance had badly damaged the surface.

MH and DW answered the points raised. It was conceded that the main players had left Dunbar leaving Dunbar Cycling Group with insufficient expertise to project manage. Stressed that DCG & DCWG had done their best.

The appointment of contractor (Tree-editions) was questioned as The Bike Track people had been recommended. The Vat Run was given as evidence of his previous experience. However it was stated he had played only a modest role and hadn't designed. AC queried if his previous work had been checked and IK confirmed it had. The contract was awarded on price closest to available budget and local company.

The issue of maintenance was covered and the need for regular possibly weekly requirement. It was conceded that provision for above was not in place and had contributed to the current state of PT. There were people who could come along and volunteer to get PT into good shape. MS, AC offered to assist. DW said he had set up Troll Bashers to rebuild and maintain PT. It was suggested that consultation of possible users could have been greater.

Clarification of total funding was asked for and provided including the contribution from DCWG, Dunbar Community Council and Sustaining Dunbar.

Proposed fencing off PT. Deemed to be too difficult and unnecessary – it's a wood, not risk free. It was agreed that we need to move on and discussed how best to proceed. AC and MS keen to be involved in Troll Bashers group.

There was a review of the Heart of Dunbar postings - had been responded to by two DCWG committee members.

AC, GN, MS, DW, DL, WB, SA, MH left at end of PT business.

2. Minutes approved

3. Matters Arising from Minutes (Chair proposed defer majority of agenda until next meeting) -

4. Maintenance Update.

4a Simon Bell frustrated by deer damage on learning wood, due to short guards.

4b Stefany Hawryluk, Lochend Gardens – Gary Whigham going round to assess trees.

4c Ecoteam Fri Nov 22nd

5. Events, Publicity & PR Aspects –

Green Woods Course 7/8th Dec. Stool making course, £40 for two days, includes lunch and a stool to take away.

6. Next Newsletter – To be proofread tomorrow. Piece on PT to be written. **CS to liaise with DB** re bird survey pie chart

7. AOCB -

MJ passed on huge thanks from 1st Dunbar cubs for evening in woods, cob oven etc.

8. Date of Next Meeting – 13th Nov, Vollies.