



August 15th 2012 Minutes of Dunbar Community Woodland Group (DCWG) Committee Meeting

Present - Simon Bell, Isobel Knox, Isobel Campbell, Ute Penny, Eva Hurley, Philip Revell, Mark James, Dave Crosbie.

Others - Mikael Forup, Agnes Clark.

1. Meeting opened by SB. Apologies for absence from Dave Andrews.
2. Minutes of previous meeting accepted as correct.
3. Matters arising - deferred to item 9.
4. Pump Track -

4.1 East Lothian Council (ELC) has as we know, returned the application, because the map did not have a recognised scale. DC and MH have met with someone who will address this issue.

4.2 PR said that Sustaining Dunbar, through the Climate Challenge Fund, will be contributing £500 to this project.

5. Inspection Report & Matters Arising -

SB did an inspection on the 14th July. There are several dead and dying trees due to water-logging after the wet summer that we have endured. In the Learning Woods, most of the recently planted ones are OK, although some need weeding around their bases. Generally the vegetative growth has increased due to the rain. There are more dead trees along the Carriage Drive. Paths are getting overgrown and he observed that several bumps and jumps have been made/dug out. Mullender Walk was also noted to have litter, however IK said that this had already been dealt with by ELC. The Lily Pond had obviously over-flowed and was covered in Duckweed. It too, had rubbish in it. There appeared to be no further damage to the signs, but the fence around the Old laundry is in a state of disrepair. Finally, it was noted that there has been encroachment into the woods, by a resident of either John Muir Gardens, or Muirfield Road. One of the committee members will identify which house it is, but it was decided to do a letter for those residents, warning them that this is unacceptable and that action will be taken if nothing is done about it.

6. Financial Statement

6.1 IK requested to see/have all the bank statements, so that she can sort out all the accounts.

6.2 OSCAR accounts acceptance - a problem has arisen, in that there is a query relating to a payment. As it stands, it does not comply with the law and potentially the audit could fail. UP will contact John Sparksman to get clarification.

6.3 IK raised the issue of the invoice that had been received, relating to printing a map for the bird survey. It is still unclear who gave authorization for this to be done in this way, but as it is a small amount, it will be paid.

Discussion then ensued, about moving the set date for the closure of accounts and tying it in with the date for the Annual General Meeting (AGM). It was decided that we would close the accounts on September 30th 2012 and that the AGM would be on the 7th November 2012.

7. Membership Statement -

We currently have 89 members. However, 18 people have not renewed, despite much prodding/reminding by UP. The discussion went on to how we can encourage people to renew and the idea of having some sort of prize draw was raised by EH. It was also suggested that we should have some sort of cross reference between our Facebook page and our website.

We also discussed methods of paying, such as Paypal and whether or not we should raise the price of the subscription. It was decided that we would discuss this at the AGM.

8. Events, Publicity & PR Aspects

8.1 Civic Pride Funding was discussed with DC and how this will be used. It was decided that both Kellie Road and Middlemas Road needed strimming along the edges, as does the Gathering Space. Weeding around the new trees is needed and it was noted that the paths around the Lily Pond are unusable.

8.2 Seedcorn funding application - IK has spoken with Liz Poulson, who is currently extremely busy, but they will hopefully be able to discuss the application in more depth, in the near future.

8.3 CWA conference will be attended by IK and EH.

Finally we were reminded about Wooplaw Community Woodland's 25th anniversary celebrations, over the 1st and 2nd September.

9. DCDC Liaison - PR attended a board meeting recently, where he suggested that DCWG should take over ownership of the account. However, this suggestion was rejected by two of the board members. PR also suggested to them, that there should be a slight alteration in the management agreement at item 4. He brought both the current and the proposed change to the meeting for us to look at - available in Dropbox for a while, should others wish to see it. There will be another DCDC board meeting in the near future and PR will be contacting Colin Shand, who is the treasurer, to discuss things further. If/when the management agreement is to be updated, it will be presented at the our AGM.

10. Dog Nuisance/Fouling -

10.1 Agnes Clark raised concerns about dogs that are walked through the woods off their leads. She feels that many owners seem unable to keep them under control and is quite rightly fearful about being knocked over, should they jump up at her. She wondered what

we might be able to do e.g. ask that owners keep their dogs on leads. However, it was pointed out that there would be the issue of how this could be enforced. UP suggested that we might put out a press statement along the lines of there being several incidents, involving unruly dogs in the woods and that we respectfully ask that people either keep their dogs on leads, or under proper control. IK is to send out an e-mail to all members, saying the same thing. Also, in the next newsletter, she will remind people of the woodland code of practice. Notices will also be put on the notice boards.

EH knows of a small device that can be carried in a pocket. If one feels threatened by a dog, one can unobtrusively press a button on it, which will send out a sound signal that is only audible to dogs and which is very unpleasant. She said that she will research this and will contact Mrs Clark, to give her the details.

Finally, we will ask the dog warden for advice on this matter, to see if there is anything that they can suggest.

10.2 Osprey Signs - panels have been ordered for the notice boards in the woods and we have received an estimate for their installation. It was decided that we will do the fitting.

10.3 Letter from Historic Scotland - IK has received a letter from them regarding listing/delisting and subsequent demolition of what remains of the ruins of Lochend House. As we are not the owners of this structure, she will pass this on to DCDC to deal with.

11. Date of next meeting and AGM - 7th November - venue and time to be confirmed.

12. AOCB -

12.1 New website - we require details of the domain name registration in order to effect the transfer, from the old one, to the new one. Jamie Morris (Andy Morris' son) has this information and UP will try to contact him through Andy.

12.2 MJ asked about buying a variety of trees for coppicing, so he and PR are to meet and go through the woods together, to get an idea of the amount that would need to be ordered.