



May 1st 2013 Minutes of Dunbar Community Group (DCWG) Meeting held at Hallhill Healthy Living Centre

Committee Members Present - Simon Bell (Convenor), Isobel Campbell, Isobel Knox, Morag Haddow, Craig Stebbing, Ute Penny, Mark James, Nick Parker

Others- David Bates, Mark Eden, Dan Waters, Dave Crosbie, Iain Young

1. **Meeting opened** at 7.30pm by SB. Apologies for absence received from Philip Revell and Eva Hurley

2. **Minutes of previous meeting held on 20th March 2013** - Dave Crosbie not a member. Minutes amended and accepted as correct.

3. **Matters Arising from minutes of 20th March 2013 meeting** -

3.1. - Permission letters - IY voiced his unease at what he deemed to be the indiscriminate removal of wood/logs from the woods. His concerns were that the woods belong to everyone and that as such, no one should be taking anything at all, because it was not theirs to take. He felt that DCWG was claiming ownership and that we should also not be removing anything either. IK pointed out that we do not claim ownership, that in fact, the woods 'belong' to Dunbar Community Development Company (DCDC) and that we manage them for the community. She also pointed out that we have to raise funds in order to discharge our duties and that may at times mean having to sell logs for firewood. Nevertheless, we agree with the principle of what he is saying, in that we should be leaving wood/logs where they lie, in order to provide habitats for small mammals, birds, insects etc. DC also feels strongly about this and his comments have been noted in previous minutes. It was therefore decided to rescind all permission, which SB will do.

It should also be noted here, that DC, IK and IC have all seen people removing wood/logs from the woods. IK approached someone about this and was not

well received. Comments were made by various committee members, that it is not easy to challenge people and IC would not feel comfortable about doing it.

4. Inspection reports & issues arising -

4.1 DB & ME gave an extremely interesting talk about the survey of breeding birds that they did in 2012. DB described the methodology and showed various slides in order to illustrate the talk. There is a moderate variety of birds in the woods and it was noted that one or two species are remaining here as opposed to migrating to warmer climes. They will be publishing their research as soon as they have clarified the exact area in hectares that are covered by the woods. SB has that information in the National Vegetation Classification and will e-mail it to IC so that she can inform DB.

4.2. DB also pointed out that he was concerned at the amount of Ivy that had been killed. We admitted that we had engaged someone to do this for us, but that it was meant to have been strimming of the paths only. It seems as if rather more of this has been done than at first thought. DB felt that it should all be left because of the shelter and nesting sites that it provides to small birds. This will be done in future and hopefully the Ivy will grow back in time.

5. Financial Statement -

IC received cash and cheques from both IK and UP. The final payment for the pump track will be made to DC, therefore the application for the Viridor payment was signed by SB, so that we can receive the payment from them.

6. Membership Statement

UP was able to recruit two more members at the meeting. Nick Parker has joined the committee and Iain Young has also offered his services to the committee although he needs to join DCWG. UP is also concerned about how we can communicate effectively with our members. As she pointed out, not everyone has an e-mail address or access to a computer. She also suggested that special events should be put on for members only, e.g. walks through the woods in different seasons. Also green woodworking for members only. It was also suggested that we should set up a Direct Debit arrangement, so IC will look into this. Finally, it was decided that renewal reminders would be sent out after two months.

7. Events, Publicity & PR Aspects -

7.1. The official opening of the Pump Track will take place on June 23rd and will be the last event of Civic Week. Viridor are to be invited.

7.2. The issue of public liability insurance was raised by IK. She has asked DCDC on numerous occasions to see this, but has been unable to, due to their lack of communication. She will again be asking, as it is now even more important, because of the creation of the Pump Track. Discussion also centred around a notice board and the wording of rules/general guidance/good practice for the use of the track. It was also decided to have some sort of disclaimer notice included. DW had examples of signs with him, which he showed to the committee. MH offered to work on a draft notice after seeing what other places have done and will circulate it to committee members.

7.3. Tree Planting - the remainder of the Woodland Trust trees need to go in soon. Planting party to be 5th May at 1.30pm meet at the Stone on Kellie Road.

7.4. DW (Transport Project - Sustaining Dunbar) suggested a competition for naming the Pump Track. This was agreed as a good idea and so IK will work with Dunbar Grammar School, in order to work something out. He is also keen to utilize the track more formally in the future e.g. running courses so that people could learn how to develop their skills safely.

7.5. Scotland's Finest Woods judging visit will be on the 14th May at 2.30PM. IK is putting together a portfolio of information and would be pleased if other committee members could be there too, if possible.

7.6. The Woodland Promenade Theatre will be putting on a show in the woods in the 1st and 2nd weekends in August called 'Mad About Muir'.

8.DCDC Liaison

9.Specific Agenda Items -

9.1. Civic Pride Funding has been refused, which was to be used for regular maintenance. In view of this, we are going to have to work something else out.

10. Date of Next Meeting -

28th May 2013 - 7.30pm at Hallhill Healthy Living Centre

11.AOCB -

Meeting closed at 9.50pm.

