

August 15th 2013 Minutes of Dunbar Community Woodland Group Committee Meeting

at Hallhill Healthy Living Centre

Committee Members Present - Simon Bell, Isobel Knox, Isobel Campbell, David Bates, Phillip Revell, Ute Penny, Eva Hurley, Morag Haddow.

Others - Dave Crosbie

1. Apologies - Craig Stebbing

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting - Minutes accepted as correct

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes (which can be deferred until item 9 onwards) -

item 5a OSCR report has been submitted and accepted.

item 14 - SB's resignation as convenor - no one has as yet come forward to take on this role, however both IK and IC said that in the interim, they would share the role.

4. Inspection Reports & Issues Arising -

4a. IK raised concerns about a Yew Tree that looks dead in the Gathering Space. She has e-mailed the Forestry Commission about this, but has had no reply. She will however, take a picture and e-mail this to them. She was wondering if it was fungal infection and will also take a sample to the CWA conference.

4b. Dog Fouling - people have again been complaining about this. IK said that she would contact/e-mail the community warden, to raise awareness. A suggestion was made about posters of a cartoon dog that can be put up at intervals around the woods, in order to make people aware, that it is not acceptable to allow their dogs to foul the footpaths and to bring, use and dispose of bags, in the bins provided, at either end of the woods.

4c. Maintenance Update - all paths have been scythed by DC. He also raised again the possibility of DCWG buying a heavy-duty grass cutting machine, that would be very useful. Craig Stebbing has looked into this, and discussions with Henderson's in Haddington, have raised the possibility of a discount. PR suggested that we might be able to get a grant, through 'Awards for All' from the Big Lottery Fund. He suggested that a sub-group be set up, consisting of him, IK and DC. This is to be done and together they will put in an application.

4d. Encroachment into the woods - IC brought photos (see attached) of an area behind the Lily Pond ? at John Muir Gardens, where a householder/resident has made a clearing, immediately adjacent to their fence. In it, they have installed a trampoline and shelving and used it for storage of various garden items and tools. This was clearly felt to be unacceptable by committee members, but no decision was made as to what action to take.

4e. EH asked how much of an overhanging branch can be cut. She said that a couple of her neighbours, had cut branches right back to the tree trunk. This too, was deemed to be incorrect, because one is only allowed to cut back to the line of one's fence. Someone will look at this on Sunday, before the John Muir play in the woods.

4f. DB raised the question of a set rota for inspecting the woods. This has been raised on several occasions in the past, but has never really got off the ground, due to people leading busy lives and having other commitments. It has generally been done on an ad hoc basis. He has therefore offered to do monthly inspections, taking it in turns with DC.

5. Financial Statement -

5a. IK received a donation of £30, for the loan of the marquee and tables.

5b. IC gave UP Standing Order forms, which can be used for people joining DCWG and renewing their subscriptions. The bank was not very helpful about setting up a Direct Debit mandate and this now is felt to be the best way of doing it.

5c. SB signed the change of address letter to the bank, in order that bank statements can be sent to IC.

5d. IK signed the expenses claim form.

6. Membership Statement -

6a. We have 98 members, although 21 of these have not yet renewed.

6b. Application forms are to be distributed around the town.

6c. DB will do regular press releases.

6d. EH has several contacts, whom she feels would be helpful in putting something together when we are planning events. She will send a draft e-mail to us all, before she sends out her request, for our approval.

7. Events, Publicity & PR Aspects -

7a. Next Newsletter - IK to prepare some text, but needs contributions from us. E.G. DB will write a piece about the birds. *Contributions need to be in by the end of September*, so that the AGM date can be advertised in plenty of time.

7b. IK to order another 6 T-Shirts.

7c. Stall at Sparkling Dunbar 24th August - we have agreed to take a stall. UP will be manning it, but really needs more help, especially setting up and taking down. If anyone can volunteer, it starts at 1pm and finishes at 6pm and all offers would be greatly appreciated.

8. DCDC Liaison - Again, no communication received, despite approaches made on many occasions by IK.

9. Specific Agenda Items -

9a. Mad About Muir 18th August - a promenade play to be done in the woods by the Quid In Theatre Company, about the life and times of John Muir.

9b. Cob (Pizza) Oven Building Workshop 29th August - 1st September - PR to be running this. Please contact him on philip@sustainingdunbar.org or 01368 866920, for more details.

9c. DC is to build a shelter - PR to apply to the Seedcorn Fund for a grant to help towards this.

9d. Words in the Woods - MH has received a request from Hannah Lavery, for permission to build a retreat in the woods, where people can go and write. If permission were to be granted, we would have to agree on a location. DB however, voiced his concerns about this and feels that there should be no such buildings/shelters etc, and that the woods should be left clear of all such things. A couple of people agreed with him, so it has been left for the time being.

9e. Bug Hotel at Gathering Place - The Ridge Project approached IK for permission to build this, which she gave. Concerns have been raised as to how it looks, in that it appears as if someone has dumped a load of rubbish. IK apologised to the group for not giving clear instructions to them, as to how it should be constructed. One or two people also raised the point of the necessity of building a Bug Hotel, as there is plenty of wood and wood piles etc, which create a more natural habitat. However, it has now been done and it would be difficult to go back to young people who made it, to tell them that it is somewhat unsightly. IK will however assess it on Sunday, before the performance of the play.

10. Date of Next Meeting - 2nd October.

11. AOCB -

11a. the date for the AGM will be during the first week in November.

11b. PR is applying for Dunbar to be the Most Creative Place in Scotland.



