**Penney’s Wood**

**AGM - 4th December 2016**

**Present:**

Ewen Cameron, Kate Somervail, Julie King, Rory Sheehan, Gill Kerr and Alastair Kerr

**Apologies:**

John Wheatley, Iain Campbell, Helena Thomson

**Minutes of last AGM**

25th November 2015 - approved

**Chairman’s Report**

The past year has been one of consolidation.

Paths have become properly established and are now being regularly maintained – by third party contractor until August, and by volunteers since.

The first of two new bridges has been erected, and the materials purchased for the second. Once established, these bridges will enable completion of the planned path network.

Some small running repairs have been required to fencing and gates, but solely as a result of wear and tear.

Three significant weather events of 2016 resulted in a further small loss of trees; around 50 in total. This brings attrition to around 100 since original planting – or 5.5%, vs the original forecast of nearer to 20% loss by this stage.

Local consultation has continued as the plantation has begun to mature and the eventual shape of the woodland has become more evident.

This has resulted in some relocation of trees, with some more planned for spring 2017.

At the same time, the committee has been sensitive to the privacy needs of local residents with regard to the formation of paths, and has modified routes and planned routes accordingly.

The overall density of trees is now in our opinion approaching optimal for this development, and it is unlikely there will be much more overall reduction in tree numbers - although relocation within the boundary is under continual review.

Plans for 2017 will focus on completing the bridge and path network, and in making best use of the various communication opportunities – on-site display board, web-site, and events.

The new web-site is now up and running (<http://www.penneyswood.org.uk/>) and procurement of a suitably robust display board has begun.

**Most importantly, usage of the woodland has increased steadily, with only minimal signs of distress.**

As ever, expenditure has been kept under close supervision and a policy adopted of a minimal cushion below which funds will require to be topped up.

Following on from this, and as can be seen from the accounts, we may be within a couple of years of having to raise additional funds to avoid falling below our cushion, and have already instigated the necessary research of sources of funding.

**Treasurers Report**

See attached sheet

Future expenditure:

* Drainage – see detail in AOCB – budget approx. £300
* Adding bridges – sleepers already purchased
* Information signage at main gate, smaller signage at other gates – prices being researched

It was agreed in principle to maintain a working capital of £10,000 so fundraising will be a factor in the future. Possible ideas include local events, small grants for specific projects (Awards for All)

**Election of Office Bearers**

Chairman – Ewen Cameron remains in post until confirmation of a replacement has been confirmed.

Secretary – Kate Somervail stepped down and Gill Kerr was proposed by Rory Sheehan and seconded by Julie King

Treasurer – Iain Campbell agreed to stay on

Trustees:

Remain as Ewen Cameron, Kate Somervail and Rory Sheenan.

**AOCB**

1. Drainage – clearing the burn again is a priority, along with flattening out of the path from Hen Hurdle to the centre of the Woodland. It was agreed Rory would contact David Gibson to undertake this work.
2. Ongoing issue of dog waste – Gill to contact Environmental Services again to see whether a bin can be put at one gate as a minimum.
3. Website – it was agreed Julie would renew the domain name and continue to invoice for this. There is an email address associated with the website – [contact@penneyswood.org.uk](mailto:contact@penneyswood.org.uk) - Julie will direct any mail to the wider committee as appropriate.

**Penney’s Wood –AGM -4th December 2016**

**Chairman’s Report on behalf of the Trustees**

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As previously advised, both Chairman (EC) and Secretary (KS) will now stand down from their roles.

Gillian Kerr will take over from Kate, and a new Chairman will be appointed before Christmas 2016.

Trustees:

EwenCameron, Kate Somervail, Rory Sheehan