**PENNEY’S WOOD MEETING**

**HELD AT DUNISLA ON WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER 2017 AT 7.30 pm**

**Present:**

Alastair Kerr; Gill Kerr; Janine Brodie; John Wheatley; Judy Dobson; Rory Sheenan; Duncan Pritchard; Penny Pritchard; Kate Somervail

**Apologies:**

Iain Campbell; Julie King; Ewen Cameron; Helena Thomson;

Janine opened the meeting by welcoming all to Dunisla.

**General**

Kate advised that they had recently sold their house and would be moving shortly. She agreed to stay as Trustee for another year; Gill to get relevant papers from Iain.

**Action: Gill**

The Picnic/BBQ went well – mainly committee members but good fun!

**Change of Dates**

Due to holidays etc., it was agreed that the work party would now meet on Sunday 22nd October, 10-12 and the AGM reset to Sunday 3rd December, 3.00 pm at Dunisla.

**Paths & Ditches**

Julie and Janine had spoken re concerns of flooding. The ditches are definitely going to be cleared and Janine has contacted Davie Johnman to discuss the work to be done. He has advised that the ground is too wet at present to take the weight of the machine and that it would mess up the paths. He suggested waiting until after the first frost (beginning of November) when the ground should be more stable. On a problem stretch of path where it is steep and slippy, levelling work will be carried out. Janine will call Davie and Rory and John will meet him to walk the path and discuss the work required. The ditches are quite deep and if possible we will leave the upper portion of the ditch to conserve flora & fauna but to scoop out the lower portion to allow for free flowing water.

**Action: Janine; Rory & John**

**Benches**

Rory advised that he would be happy to make simple benches – posts hammered into ground with planks nailed on. All agreed that it would be relatively inexpensive and have a rustic look in keeping with the woods. Maintenance would be minimal - just strimming round the posts.

**Action: Rory, John & Alistair**

**Noticeboard**

Ewen advised (via email) that Alyn was recovering after a back surgery and would hopefully be able to supervise the making of the noticeboard in due course. Best wishes to Alyn for a speedy return to health.

 **Action: Ewen**

**Work Party**

Discussions regarding work to be carried out on the 22nd:re-staking; moving some young trees; clearing weeds from the plastic supports and pruning.  Stobs and ties were at Rory’s gate and it might be useful to have a step to stand on to hammer the large stops in. John advised that he had some notes to share on pruning trees which would be useful before we start! Secateurs at the ready…..

**Funding**

Hopefully the notice from the Hydro Board should be sent out shortly with application details. Janine suggested a sub-committee to deal with this: Ewan, Iain (subject to their agreement!), Janine and Gill. We are applying for funds for general maintenance and ditch clearing as this needs to be carried out on an annual basis. Now that Rory, John & Alistair are making the benches, there is no need to request funds for wood etc.

**Action: Ewan, Iain, Janine and Gill**

**AOB**

Rory commented that he has seen horses being ridden in the woods and this would ruin the paths. He had ‘No Horses’ signs. Judy suggested that the wording should be more along the lines of ‘These paths are not suitable for horses’. Failing this, we might need to consider putting in stile or kissing gates in future.

Alistair raised the question of planting flowers and whether we were going to be specific and only plant native wild flowers. It was agreed that only native flowers would be planted. He had some bluebells and iris to plant and was also bringing over some tree trunks/logs to encourage wildlife. Judy had some primroses to plant and also commented that there had been a lot of butterflies this year which was encouraging. (NB Subsequent emails received from Alistair and Julie to be discussed at the next meeting.)

Gill confirmed that she was still trying to organise a waste bin to be sited somewhere near the gate by the Council (met with zero/negative response so far).

**Date of next meeting: AGM rescheduled for Sunday 3 December at 3.00 pm at Dunisla.**

**The meeting closed.**