**PENNEY’S WOOD MEETING**

**HELD AT DUNISLA ON WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2018 AT 7.30 pm**

**Present:**

Alastair Kerr; Janine Brodie; John Wheatley; Judy Dobson; Duncan Pritchard; Penny Pritchard; Gill Kerr;

**Apologies:**

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

Janine opened the meeting by welcoming all to Dunisla. We all wished Rory a very speedy recovery from his illness.

The previous minutes were taken as read and approved.

**General**

Janine thanked everyone who had joined the work party in February – a lot was achieved in a short time and the trees had been moved as planned. She also thanked Alistair for placing the wood piles (and planting foxgloves) and Stuart & Judy for planting the willow trees. It was hoped that the new trees, being larger, will not be so easily choked by the rose bay willow herb.

**Path Maintenance**

As Rory is unable to mow the paths, Janine reported that Ewen has spoken to his gardener, Stephen (who has previously mown the paths) and he is available to do them again. Alistair said that he hoped to get in and mow too as his mother has very kindly given him a heavy duty petrol mower which will make the task much easier! He will ask Rory if he might be able to find a place to store the mower. This would be discussed further at the April meeting.

**Action: Alistair & Ewen**

**Funding**

Janine has met with Iain and Ewen and attended a Hydro Board presentation in the Village Hall (given by Jim Duffy). The CC are currently completing the process for funding applications. Iain and Ewen are collaborating on preparing our application which we hope to submit shortly. This first application will hopefully be used as our ‘blueprint’ for any future applications.

It was decided that this would be an ‘all-inclusive’ application to cover everything; ditch clearing, general maintenance, materials for benches, pond etc.

**Action: Iain & Ewen**

**Creation of a pond**

This had been raised at the AGM. There was general discussion on where water comes into the field and siting of the pond there (to the right of the top gate). John advised that the culvert under the road was not good. The plan is to have an unlined, natural, shallow pond which will hopefully prevent the accumulation of water on the main path which occurred after the deep snow and heavy rain this year. Davie Johnman will be able to advise us on depth and dimensions and he also knows about the field drain. It looked as though there might only be a couple of hawthorns to be re-sited. This will be a project for the Spring work party in April/May.

**Link to the School**

Janine finally met the Head teacher (who was leaving that Friday!) and she thought it was a great idea for the school to get involved and participate more in the Woodland. Janine has arranged to meet the new HT next week. Judith suggested the children might be interested in making an insect hotel etc. Janine and Helena would suggest walking around the woodland with the HT once she gets settled in and the weather improves. (John advised that it had been the School’s idea in the first instance to get the Millennium paths created and WALC got it underway.) This gives established links with the School and a good opener for Janine’s discussion with the HT. **Action: Janine & Helena**

**Noticeboard**

Ewen advised via email that he would gildy (word I have never seen and couldn’t remember!) Alyn. **Action: Ewen**

**AOB**

* Regarding funding, Alistair suggested that the Duncan & Margaret Thomson Trust was another we could try and mentioned that Kate knew of another. It seems there are hundreds on the internet and once we have our blueprint application to use – the Trust world will be our oyster! Judith commented that lots of them target particular groups so we would have to filter to find ones suited to our needs.
* The committee would like to record their thanks to Julie for all her work keeping the website up to scratch and the various links she has done – it really is a ‘black art’ to some of us! Julie has asked if we could provide some photographs for the website and everyone thought it would be a good idea to take some pictures of our working parties etc. to put on the site.
* The waste bin, after many requests, has now been sited on the corner (where the Millennium walk starts and the road curves sharply round) on the Back Crook.

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 18 April, 7.30pm at Dunisla.**

**The meeting closed.**

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| ***Meeting to discuss Spring Maintenance*** | ***Wednesday 18 April – 7.30pm at Dunisla*** |
| ***Spring Maintenance working party*** | ***Saturday 28 April - 10am and follow up if required*** ***Saturday 5 May*** |
| ***Meeting to discuss Summer Event*** | ***Sunday 10 June – 3.30pm at Dunisla*** |
| ***Summer Picnic/BBQ Event*** | ***Sunday in July/August?*** |
| ***Meeting to discuss Autumn Maintenance*** | ***Wednesday 3 October – 7.30pm at Dunisla*** |
| ***Autumn Maintenance working party*** | ***Saturday 13 October follow up if required Saturday 20 October*** |
| ***AGM*** | ***Sunday 25 November – 3.30pm at Dunisla*** |