**PENNEY’S WOOD MEETING**

**HELD AT FYRISH ON WEDNESDAY 19 JUNE AT 7.30 pm**

**Present:**

Janine Brodie; Stuart Dobson; Judy Dobson; Duncan Pritchard; Penny Pritchard; Hazel Cameron; Willie Thomson; Helena Thomson; Iain Campbell; Gill Kerr;

**Apologies:**

Alistair Kerr;

Janine opened the meeting by welcoming all to Fyrish.

The previous minutes were taken as read.

**Matters arising from the minutes:**

Public Liability Insurance – Duncan agreed to investigate the best rates and get a quote for the renewal due soon. **Action: Duncan**

Janine will forward to the committee the monthly Community Woodland Association newsletter.

**Action: Janine**

Electricity pylon – Julie in contact with the electricity board who will pay us a modest amount (approx. £10/annum) for the pylon on the land.

**Fossoway Gathering**

It was generally felt that it had been a good opportunity to bring Penney’s Wood to the public’s notice but had been disappointing in the wet weather and amount of funds raised. The baking and holly sales proving to be the most successful and the treasure map and bug boxes less so (about 20 made). The leftover materials gathered for the boxes was distributed and used by the local nursery group and Nichol Wheatley, who is carrying out a project with the school for installation in the woodland.

It was also thought that it was too long! Suggesting that 12.00 to 16.00 would be long enough.

Janine also made a few contacts for people who wished to help in the work parties and interest was also shown from Seamab House for a children’s visit. The total raised was £61.43.

**Tree Maintenance**

Janine did a swift count of the approximate number of trees still left to be released from the guards in each Zone:

Zone 1 (Janine) – 7 and 1 tree down

Zone 2 (Judy) – 20

Zone 3 (Hazel) – 5 and 1 tree down

Zone 4 (Alastair) - ?

Zone 5 (Willie & Helena) – 20 and 20 to re-stake

Zone 6 (Stuart) – 12

Zone 7 (Duncan & Penny) – 30

Zone 8 (Iain) – 12-15

Approx 110 left to do and 20-22 to re-stake.

It was decided that we will need another work party(s) despite the weeds being chest high now! The dates decided on were **Wednesday 10 July 7.00 pm and Saturday 20 July 10-12.00** and Helen & Alan Cassidy; Helen & Iain Davidson; Norman & Briony; Adelaide; Phil & Vieanne (volunteers from the Gathering) and Colin McIntosh to be invited to see if they were available to help.

There will be sufficient cutters available and Gill will purchase some rubber tree ties/hessian as the plastic ones were too tight and inflexible now.

**Action: Gill**

**Mowing**

The rota has been working successfully and Duncan has refuelled and filled 2 gerry cans for future use. He also kindly strimmed round the benches which looks a lot tidier.

Stuart suggested that now the stile has been removed between Helen & Alan’s fence to the wood, there is now no longer a need to mow the small path from the main path to St. Thomas’s.

A shed will be required from the mower eventually as Helen & Alan will need to free up the space.

General discussion continued regarding the purchase of a new shed – Janine had researched a few and advised, for example, that a Billyo log cabin was £589 + roofing and padlock. Duncan said he would have a look and come back with some prices. There would also need to be a proper base costed.

**Action: Duncan**

Iain and Janine to put an application in to the Hydro Community Benefit Fund for a new shed once prices have been ascertained.

**Action: Iain & Janine**

Gill to clarify with Rory who owns the mower for insurance and repair purposes etc.

**Action: Gill**

**Indian Summer Picnic/BBQ**

Great name suggested by Hazel – with hope that it is indeed an Indian Summer! Suggested date this year is Sunday 1st September and everyone to bring their own food and drink. A BBQ will be available for use. Invitations to be sent to Alan & Ruth Tennant, all work party helpers (see above), School. Gill to put up notices nearer the time.

**Action: Gill**

**AOCB**

Dog poo – Notices have been put up by Julie but this is a perennial problem just never goes away. Hazel & Gill are often on ‘poo patrol’ and although the main suspect is believed to have been identified it will be difficult to take action. The Council seem to have a major problem putting a waste bin at the main gate and some irresponsible dog owners also seem to have a major problem tidying up after their animals!

A new heavy duty latch is required at the South gate as the last one has broken already. Janine kindly volunteered John to repair this.

Penny reported that the step at the West gate was wobbly, John would be asked if he could repair this too

**Action: John (Janine)**

Noticeboard – Stuart mentioned that the wood is too hard for drawing pins to be pushed in (and leaves lots of holes) so it was decided to line it with self-adhesive cork tiles for easier display. Willie & Helena volunteered to do this.

**Action: Willie & Helena**

**The meeting closed.**

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| **Proposed meeting dates for 2019/...** |  |
| ***Working Party to remove tree guards and restake*** | ***Wednesday 10 July (evening) and Saturday 20 July 10.00am*** |
| ***Indian Summer Picnic/BBQ Event*** | ***Sunday 1 September from 13.00*** |
| ***Meeting to discuss Autumn Maintenance*** | ***Wednesday 2 October – 7.30pm at Fyrish*** |
| ***Autumn Maintenance working party*** | ***Sunday 13 October and follow up on******Saturday 19 October if required*** |