**Penney’s Community Woodland AGM 13th June 2021**

**Chairperson’s Report**

This AGM but covers the period of May 2020 to April 2021 and was postponed due to Covid restrictions. In May 2020 a Covid19 mask making-making enterprise begun in a small way and snowballed. The fundraising enterprise was initiated by Julie and supported in a practical way by all female members of the committee, either sewing, cutting, delivering or preparing publicity. We are particularly grateful to Fossoway Stores for kindly displaying a basket of masks for sale in the shop throughout our campaign. Staged leafletting of local areas and selective publicity raised the grand sum of £1548, much to our astonishment. Feedback from locals was very supportive of the local woodland and appreciative of its community benefits and our efforts. An article appeared in the Kinross Newsletter celebrating our success.

A generous £1000 donation from WL Gore was secured via a happy customer in Drum, in addition to an earlier welcome donation of £800 from Fossoway Benefit Fund.

The 2020 AGM was delayed until 19th July due to Covid19 restrictions. The site for the container was then agreed and staked out.

Mid August saw a massive storm with excessive rain causing extensive local flooding, including to Penney’s Wood and regrettably to a neighbouring property (Julie’s). Bridge timbers moved but resettled while the woodland was closed for a week and water receded. Whether it is possible to take mitigating measures against future flooding has been investigated. Flood engineers visited the site in March 2021 and explained that flood prevention now focuses on holding back the water as much as possible. Can the woodland hold more? Deepening ditches is not advised and ours were deemed in good order as were the ditch crossings. Clearing a short section of bank at the easternmost point to maintain a shallow slope was recommended and a confirmatory letter is awaited.

Following the cancellation of the Fossoway Gathering in May, a Light Walk was planned for early November, hosted by Penney’s Wood and run by the Gathering Committee, to be set up by Rhoderick Moncrieff. This too was cancelled due to Covid19 restrictions. Plans for this community event may be resurrected at some point.

In August a mini digger cleared the site ready for the container which was delivered on 28th from a local business at Fruix Farm. The new tractor mower from Cupar was delivered and demonstrated on the same day. Paint, ear defenders and anti bac wipes were bought. Excellent work was done by committee members, painting, filling in round the container, forming a ramp, and all posts and guards sorted and neatly stacked. The entrance area around the noticeboard is now harmonious and business like, for all future tasks on site. In March willow saplings were planted around the hut to provide natural screening, which can be managed to create an effective hedge.

A small team of five did sterling work setting up the Kinross Farmers’ Market on 26th September and thereby raising £200.

On 30th September £2000 was awarded by the Kinross Fund thanks to Iain’s efforts as outgoing treasurer.

Finally, a Work Weekend at the end of March brought an impressive response from committee members who spent considerable time and effort re-staking, pruning, taking down dead trees and generally making the woodland a better natural habitat.