**PENNEY’S WOOD COMMUNITY WOODLAND GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD AT FYRISH ON SUNDAY 31 OCTOBER 2021**

**Present:**

Janine Brodie; Judy Dobson; Hazel Cameron; Julie King; Alan Cassidy; Phil Brewster; Chris McCaughey; Gill Kerr;

**Apologies:**

Helen Cassidy; Willie & Helena Thomson; Alastair Kerr; Iain Campbell;

Janine welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Chris McCaughey who has volunteered to help in the Woodland and may be willing to join the Committee. Janine also had a note of other possible assistance from Diane McMillan, Martin Hill and Alastair Houston for work parties.

Thanks were given to Phil and Alastair for repairing the West Steps. They have done a grand job and it is very much appreciated.

**Paths and Ditches**

Phil advised that the paths had not been mown due to the weather and mowing may be finished for the season.

Janine had received a letter from Perth & Kinross Council regarding the watercourse inspection. They had earlier suggested we sharpen the angle of a couple of metres of banking on the West side. The lower part of the woodland was regarded as a flood plain and should therefore hold as much water as possible. Julie advised that when PKC had revisited in August, they advised it should be inspected every year. They recommend that we do not amend the bridges or clear/deepen the burn as the undergrowth slows the water. When asked if they referred to the possible breaching of the Southern bank (between the middle crossing and the Wallace’s land, they advised that they hadn’t realised the ground was so boggy and to ignore that part of the letter. Julie will get clarification on this and monitor.

**Action: Julie & Janine**

**Work Parties**

General discussion took place on the best time of year to carry out the first stage of removal of the blackthorn which had become intrusive. It was agreed that January/February was the best time and a work party has been scheduled for 29th January between 10-12 am, with a fallback date of 5th February. Chain saws would be used by those who had them (with appropriate PPE/boots/clothing) and Alan advised that he had successfully used loppers to remove the main branches and then the roots were relatively easy to dig up. Phil agreed to rally the troops for this.

**Action: Phil, Committee and Volunteers**

It was agreed that the aim was to agree an area in which to contain the blackthorn and then maintain it annually. Alan had dug a trench which had stopped it spreading.

**Tree Pruning**

It was agreed that this could be carried out at the same time as the group removing blackthorn, 29th January. Crossed branches or diseased parts of the tree may be removed with loppers, secateurs or handsaw. Again, appropriate clothing, particularly sturdy gloves would be required. We would get in touch with volunteers to assist either or both groups.

**Action: Committee & Volunteers**

**Fencing**

Janine suggested we contact Graham Livingston who had previously carried out the fencing to obtain a quote. Gill had contacted Ian Wilkie who was not sure if he could undertake the work. Judy advised that the application dates for the Kinross Community funding were several times a year and the next would be in March so it would be helpful to have quotes by then.

**Action: Janine**

**Title Deeds**

John Wheatley had spoken to Janine and advised that the large Scots pine on the Wallace’s boundary was actually part of the woodland ground. There had been some confusion regarding the boundary line as the Wallace’s appear not to know and our paperwork refers to an area on the map but there is no map attached! This situation could possibly be clarified by checking the Land Registry. The original solicitor is now dead and the work has been transferred to a solicitor in Kinross (working on behalf of the Duncan Penney Trustees). With our approval for a solicitor to be appointed on our behalf, documents are being prepared to transfer the small pocket of land to the North West of Penney’s Wood to us.

Costs for this will hopefully be met by the Penney Estate which has not been wound up yet so some monies will be available.

The proposal to put a gate in the boundary fence (outlined In Alastair’s email of 19 August 2021) was rejected.

**Gates**

Janine had measured the gates and unfortunately metal farm gates would not fit as previously proposed.

It was noted that the West gate latch is broken and catching on the wooden strain post. It was agreed that we would repair the latch with either a chain and bolt or similar and Phil would kindly look into this.

**Banking**

Judy has organised digital banking and we now have a debit card too.

Julie advised that to raise funds using Amazon Smile you need to select ‘Fossoway Access & Amenity Project Group’ unfortunately this cannot be changed to our current name. (Julie outlined the details in her email of 5th August 2021).

**AOCB**

Strimmer purchase to be discussed at the next meeting.

The hard back poster which Helen kindly prepared for theFossoway Gathering would be put up on the Main Gate noticeboard.

The next meeting will be held end February, date to be advised.

The meeting closed.

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| **Dates for 2022** |  |
| ***Work Party to remove Blackthorn – Stage 1*** | ***January 29th 10-12 am and fallback 5 Feb 10-12 am*** |
| ***General Meeting*** | ***End February date tba*** |
| ***AGM*** | ***End April date tba*** |