

PENNEY'S WOOD COMMUNITY WOODLAND GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT FYRISH ON WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH 2022

Present:

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

Apologies:

Helen Cassidy; Willie & Helena Thomson;

Janine welcomed all to the meeting.

The minutes of the 31 October 2021 meeting were accepted.

Tree Maintenance

Judith, Stuart, Alan and Phil have been working at removing the blackthorn. Judith had spoken to Nature Conservancy who advised that the roots/stumps should be painted with Glyphosate or stump killer. It was agreed that we would try this and Carrs might have some in stock. It was decided that we would take more down and particularly reduce near Alan & Helen's garden fence on the woodland side. It was previously agreed to maintain a 'screen' of blackthorn which would be kept under control for wildlife, birds nesting etc. and this would be kept under review. Julie, Janine and Judith had been pruning during spells of better weather.

Over the next couple of weekends (6 and 12 March) or whenever folk have a spare hour or so and weather permitting, blackthorn would continue to be removed (a boundary would be made with posts to delineate the blackthorn 'screen'). Pruning and post removal will also continue. Free a Tree would commence in May.

A few more large tree ties are needed but can be removed from trees where they are redundant.

Action: All

Boundary

We were delighted to receive £2000 from the Fossoway Benefit Fund and this will enable us to get boundary fencing installed. The quote for this work is £3100 and will be carried out by Graham Livingston.

It was agreed that Janine would ask Jane Wallace if we could have the boundary on our side of the burn and advise that the large tree at the SW edge of the woodland is within our boundary. Julie will advise neighbours on the South boundary when work is about to start. The existing broken fence (which has barbed wire) needs to be removed and Graham will be asked about this.

Action: Janine and Julie

Funds

Judith advised that the bank account currently stands at £12906 (keeping our cushion of £10000 in the bank). We will need to add £1100 to the donation of £2000 from the Fossoway Benefit Fund for fencing and it was agreed to purchase a heavy-duty electric strimmer with harness for £772. We have bid for this from the Kinross Fund but could pay for this ourselves if need be. Petrol costs may also need to be taken into consideration this year.

Insurance rates would be looked into as currently we pay £156 but may increase this year (1 Farmers Market a year can cover this cost).

We thought it would be useful to get another two keys cut for the hut and perhaps Helena could arrange for this. Phil agreed to look into a key safe to hold one, Alan would hold the other, and Willie & Helena the original.

Action: Helena and Phil

General discussion regarding doing the Farmers Market (subsequently Janine contacted Bouwien and date advised of 23 April) which would raise £200 and it was agreed that volunteers contact Janine.

Action: Janine

Discussion regarding any proposed event in the woodland (BBQ, picnic, children's trail etc) for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee during 2-5 June. Several committee members will be away on holiday and it was agreed that we will revisit this at the next meeting.

Paths

John Brodie has spoken to Davie Johnman regarding flattening the paths. Davie advised we do nothing until the paths are completely dry and then use a walk behind roller to flatten. He has a roller but it is broken at present. Julie has an old roller which we could try using on the back of the mower. One could be hired.

General discussion on the burn with recent rainwater. Julie advised that the volume of water was lifting the East bridge at the bottom edge and the angle might need to be sharpened. Alan expressed concern about the volume of water going through his garden and down the side road and thought of building a soil bund. He may seek advice from the P&K flood department.

AOCB

It was agreed that for Health & Safety purposes risk assessments should be carried out for mowing, strimming, pruning, work parties, etc. This should be read, agreed and signed for every person undertaking any work. Alan agreed to implement this.

A sign will be posted on the gate to advise visitors 'Mowing in Progress'.

Maintaining & Servicing equipment - ask Willie what the current position is regarding this.

The meeting closed.

<u>Dates for 2022</u>	
<i>AGM / General Meeting</i>	<i>Sunday 24 April 3.30 pm in woodland if weather ok or Fyrish if not</i>
<i>Work Party (freeing trees)</i>	<i>Sunday 8 May 10 am</i>