**Penney’s Wood**

**AGM - 25th November 2014**

**Present:**

Ewen Cameron, Kate Somervail, Mandy Round, Helena Thomson, Rory Sheehan, Iain Campbell and Alastair Kerr

**Apologies:**

Julie King, John and Bronwen Wheatley

**Minutes of last AGM**

These are historical, and relate to the hand over between the WALC and Woodland projects, and as such are approved

**Chairman’s Report**

Over the last 18 months, there has been a lot of progress on the community woodland being developed on the land bequeathed by the late Duncan Penney.

The completed stages so far are as follows:

* Securing support from and agreeing planting plan with Woodland Trust.
* Ground clearance. Removal of debris, and preparation of the land for planting.
* Fencing and gating of the entire site.
* Laying out of path and bridging.
* Agreement signed on planting and maintenance contract (3 years).
* Planting of approximately 18oo trees of entirely indigenous species, with appropriate protection.
* First stage maintenance, weed control.

The climate this year appears to been very favourable to tree planting, with some species already clearly visible above their protective sleeves.

A very positive start has clearly been made, but there is much still to be done to enable the development to fulfil its potential and to reflect the intentions expressed by the local community - to become a natural woodland comprising native species planted in a manner sympathetic to the local environment and providing a peaceful space for local wild-life to be enjoyed by all.

In addition, the charity committee is sensitive to comments received about the shape and nature of planting, the need to modify some of the planted areas, and the need also to re-apply some focus to the drainage and waterways.

Now that the majority of the plantings are achieving some growth, it is our intention to re-plant a number of trees more in line with the original intentions.

In order to take the development to the next stage, to ensure that maintenance is properly managed and to build on the positive start, the committee believes that it would be advantageous at this stage to broaden the committee and increase the extent of public participation in this project.

**Financial Report**

Funds are sitting at over £13,000, with one £300 bill outstanding.

Maintenance costs:

Estimated Actual

Year 1 – 2014 £562 £412

Year 2 – 2015 £722 -

Mandy is completing the books as the paperwork is now complete, these will be ready in due course, the books will then be handed over to the new Treasurer.

Ewen thanked Mandy for all her hard work as Treasurer over the last few years.

**Election of Office Bearers**

Chairman – Ewen Cameron agreed to stay on

Secretary – Kate Somervail agreed to stay on

Treasurer – Iain Campbell, nominated by Kate Somervail, seconded by Mandy Round

Thanks to Iain for taking on the Treasurer role.

**Co-option of new committee members**

The following have all agreed to join the committee:

Helena Thomson

Rory Sheehan

Alastair Kerr

Julie King

John Wheatley

Bronwen Wheatley is remaining on the committee.

A warm welcome to all the new committee members.

**AOCB**

1. The ground around Wester Crosslands had been left empty to allow the current owners to plant trees of their own choice in the area. A letter of comfort is to be supplied to Mandy to confirm this.