**Penney’s Wood**

**AGM - 25th November 2014**

**Present:**

Ewen Cameron, Kate Somervail, Julie King, John Wheatley, Helena Thomson, Rory Sheehan, Iain Campbell and Alastair Kerr

**Apologies:**

Mandy Round

**Minutes of last AGM**

25th November 2014 - approved

**Chairman’s Report**

Firstly, I’d like to say on behalf of the whole committee we regret Amanda’s (Penney) passing, and acknowledge our thanks for her part in the donation of the land and financial support which has allowed for the development of the woodland as an amenity for the whole village.

It’s been a successful year for the woodland, the trees are really starting to show good growth, and the expected attrition rate of 15-20% has in reality only been about 5%. There has been systematic maintenance of the area by committee members and contractors, thanks in particular to Rory for developing the paths to the east and maintaining them through the year, and also to Willie Thompson.

On advice from Woodland Trust it was agreed to leave the tree’s to “settle” for the first two years, and then start the process of thinning and relocating where necessary. This process is planned for the early months of 2016 and will involve determining the on-going shape of the woodland as it grows – in particular relocating the larger trees (eg: oak) to ensure they don’t impact on the neighbouring houses.

Other activities for 2016 include:

* Extending the path network
* Social event – following the success of the event in the Autumn

**Treasurers Report**

See attached sheet

Future expenditure – budgeting approx. £1500.00

* Adding 2 x bridges
* Final maintenance by contractor as per original quote
* Purchase and store of ride-on mower
* Information signage at main gate, smaller signage at other gates
* Website – purchase of domain and hosting

It was agreed in principle to maintain a working capital of £10,000 so fundraising will be a factor in the future. Possible ideas include local events, small grants for specific projects (Awards for All)

**Election of Office Bearers**

Chairman – Ewen Cameron agreed to stay on

Secretary – Kate Somervail agreed to stay on

Treasurer – Iain Campbell agreed to stay on

Both Ewen and Kate intend to step down over the next year, committee members were asked to come forward prior to the next AGM to allow handover of these roles.

Trustees:

Currently Ewen Cameron, Kate Somervail and Bronwen Wheatley. Bronwen is stepping down, the committee agreed to elect Rory Sheenan as Trustee – proposed by Ewen, seconded by Helena. Thank you to Rory for taking on this role.

**AOCB**

1. Concerns – Mandy Round (clarification of land use and long term density of woodland). It was agreed that a letter of comfort should be written to address Mandy’s concerns, this will be worded by Ewen and John based on the original terms of Duncan’s Will
2. Land at junction of Ashgrove – the committee had agreed to take this piece of land into the woodland at the request of the Duncan’s Executors. Laurence Thompson approached the committee with concerns that this piece of land was not part of the original bequest – written clarification to be given to Lawrence that the land is in addition to the original area
3. Website – thanks to Julie for putting the website together, it was agreed this could now be published. Any additional information to be added should be given to Julie on an on-going basis