**PENNEY’S WOOD MEETING**

**HELD AT DUNISLA ON SUNDAY 25 JUNE 2017 AT 4.00pm**

**Present:**

Alastair Kerr; Ewen Cameron; Gill Kerr; Janine Brodie; John Wheatley; Judy Dobson; Helena Thomson; Rory Sheenan;

**Apologies:**

Duncan Pritchard; Iain Campbell; Julie King; Kate Somervail; Penny Pritchard;

Janine opened the meeting by welcoming all to Dunisla and noting the previous minutes which were taken as read and seconded by Judy.

**Funding**

With regard to Hydro Scheme funding, John advised that permission had been granted for the CC to send out a round robin letter to local residents detailing how to apply for funding. We will need to be ready to apply with our detailed costs and plans for our seating – another meeting may be required to finalise this.

Nothing known at present regarding the position of our application for KCC funding.

 **Action: Duncan and Alastair**

**Paths & Ditches**

John advised that David Johnman is extremely busy and has therefore been unable to clear the ditches or flatten the diagonal path. Judy asked if it is necessary to clear the ditches on an annual basis given that we want to encourage natural wild life and flowers. Alistair commented that we need to think now about how we plan for future biodiversity. It was agreed that Judy would look into the implications of clearing the ditches annually or just on a ‘once in a while’ basis, taking into consideration flooding or backing up of water.

**Action: Judy**

All commented and appreciated the great job Rory does creating and maintaining the paths – it is a pleasure to walk round!

**Seating**

Alistair and Duncan kindly provided photocopies of various seating arrangements and general discussion took place on what would be most practical (particularly with regard to school visits), look natural in a woodland setting and be most cost effective. Rory suggested that wooden sleeper benches would be fairly easy to make and install - set in postcrete with a surround of wooden chips. These would be placed at various points around the woods – set back from the paths. It was agreed that about 8-10 would be a suitable number (4 round the semi-circle picnic area; 1 by the new noticeboard; 1 near the bottom gate; and 2 probably nearer the west gate).

The cost of these + materials would form the basis of our funding application.

John agreed to source and cost the price of sleepers, Ewen likewise. (See \*note below)

 **Action: John and Ewen**

Rory & Alistair (and Willie whose services were donated by Helena!) to make & install)

**Action: Rory, Alistair & Willie**

**Noticeboard**

Ewen advised that Alyn was unable to make the noticeboard due to busy work commitments. However, an alternative arrangement is in place to design and make the noticeboard along the same lines as previously agreed. (\* Note: Ewen offered to get a quote for wood for the benches from the same source.)

 **Action: Ewen**

**Summer Picnic (‘Picnic in the Park’ or ‘T in the Woods’??)**

This will take place on Sunday 20 August between 4pm – 6pm. A couple of gazebos (please let me know if you have one!) will be provided and Ewen will bring over BBQ’s. Everyone to bring their own picnics and drink, BBQ food, chairs, blankets etc. Gill will provide and circulate posters nearer the time with the emphasis on ‘come and enjoy the woodland…’

 **Action: Posters: Gill – BBQ’s: Ewen**

**AOB**

Janine and Helena have arranged to visit Fossoway School to speak to the Head Teacher/Lead Learner and invite them to walk the woods to see how we can facilitate its use by the children as a learning environment.

Iain sent Gill an email confirming that this year’s Insurance has been paid. It was agreed that a Disclaimer should be posted on the new noticeboard.

Observation was made that several of the larger trees have blown over in recent strong winds. 50 new stobs and renewable ties to be purchased.

 **Action: Rory**

**Date of next meeting: Wednesday 11 October 7.30 am at Dunisla (unless another interim meeting is required to discuss the application for funding.)**

**The meeting closed.**