Minutes of the Penney’s Wood committee Annual General Meeting

 3 December 2018

**Present:**

Committee members:

Janine Brodie (Chair), Iain Campbell (Treasurer), Penny Pritchard, Duncan Pritchard, Julie King, Alastair Kerr, John Wheatley, Rory Sheehan, Helena Thompson, Judith Dobson

Member of the public: Linda Thompson

**Apologies:**

Gill Kerr, Ewan Cameron, Kate Somervail

**Minutes of the last AGM**

The minutes were approved by Duncan Pritchard, seconded by Alastair Kerr.

**Chair’s Report**

Firstly, I’d like to thank our former chairman Ewen Cameron for his sterling work in both the setting up and steering of this group in its initial years. I’ll do my best to continue the good work.

The trees in Penney’s Wood continue to thrive. As they gain height some blow over and we now use sturdier posts to support them. This is likely to be an ongoing task, affecting certain species. Twice yearly work parties checked the trees and identified and rectified problems. Individual committee members also contributed time and effort as they saw fit and our particular thanks to Judy and Stuart Dobson I this regard. A scattered handful of trees died last winter but only in one small area have trees (mostly scots pines) died off, possibly due to damp conditions or weed competition. The need for relocating trees is minimal. Annual ditch maintenance by a contractor is currently in hand and will be carried out with a view to conserving the habitat on the upper edges.

This year a new bridge has been installed and new path mown to extend the network of paths for children, dog-walkers and just strollers to enjoy. Our thanks to Rory for his ongoing maintenance of the paths throughout the year. Anecdotal evidence is that more people of all ages are regularly using and enjoying the woodland amenity. The peace and beauty of the young woodland was much enjoyed by those who attended the late summer picnic on a day with sun and no rain.

Plans for 2018 include:

* upgrading access to the woodland at the western gate Back Crook
* the installation of appropriate benches at strategic points
* erection of a notice board at the main gate
* planting of suitable native species plants such as snowdrops, primroses and bluebells
* application for funding for upkeep and maintenance of the woodland.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Income and Expenditure year ended March 2017



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| Cost Statement - 3rd December 2017 |
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| RBS Account as at 31st March 2017 | **£11,345.93** |  |  |  |  |
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| Expenditure |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| RAP INSURANCE (July 17 - June 18) |  | -£163.00 |  |  |  |  |
| Rory Sheehan (Coventry for Fencing) | -£111.54 |  |  |  |  |
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| Interest Received |  |  | £2.82 |  |  |  |  |
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|  |  | **Remaining Balance** | **£11,074.21** |  | RBS Statement dated 8th November 2017 |
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**Election of Office Bearers**

Chair – Janine agreed to stay in post

Treasurer – Iain Campbell agreed to stay in post

Secretary – Gill Kerr agreed to stay in post.

**Election of Trustees**

Kate Somervail has resigned from the Board of Trustees as she has moved from the village. John Wheatley proposed that Janine Brodie replace Kate Somervail as a Trustee. Janine agreed and Iain will update the information on the charities web site to reflect this change.
**ACTION: Iain to replace Kate with Janine on Charities web site**

**AOB**

1. Julie reported that the fee (£52) for hosting the web site ([penneyswood.org.uk](http://www.penneyswood.org.uk)) is due in January and asked if we wanted to continue with the web site. All agreed but Janine asked how much it was used as it’s difficult to find. It was suggested that we ask for a link from the [Fossoway](http://www.fossoway.org) web site to enhance its profile. Judith Dobson agreed to investigate costs for hosting web sites to see if there’s a cheaper alternative.
**ACTION: Judith to look at web site costs.**
2. John Wheatley has asked when bids should be submitted for funding from the Rumbling Bridge Hydro Scheme but has not received a reply. A subcommittee (Janine, Gill, Iain and Ewen) will meet to prepare a bid for funding when the fund opens in the New Year.
**ACTION: Janine to organise meeting of subcommittee to prepare bid for funding.**The Rumbling Bridge Hydro Scheme fund is unlikely to provide funding to cover all the annual costs so we need to find alternative sources of funding.
**ACTION: Alastair to find out who funded the Duke of Edinburgh bid and Janine to contact Portmoak & Muckhart Community Woodlands for suggestions.**
3. Janine contacted Fossoway Primary School in the summer term to encourage them to use the community woodland however they were too busy. It was agreed that she should approach them again in the spring.

**ACTION: Janine to** **approach the school again to facilitate theiruse of the community woodland.**

1. Progress with benches – a group will meet in the spring to construct the benches using sawn sleepers on wooden posts.
2. John Wheatley mentioned a notional plan to construct a pond in the area where the water drains into the wood from the silage fields. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
3. It was agreed that we need to set up a work party in January to move trees and replace dead trees. Janine and Gill will send out a list of dates for meetings and work parties in 2018.

**ACTION: Janine and Gill to send out dates for meetings in 2018.**