**PENNEY’S WOOD MEETING**

**HELD AT FYRISH ON SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2020 AT 3.00 PM**

**Present:** Janine Brodie; Judy Dobson; Hazel Cameron; Julie King; Helena Thomson; Iain Campbell; Philip Brewster; Helen & Alan Cassidy; Phil Sharples (guest as representative of PTA); Gill Kerr;

**Apologies**: Stuart Dobson; Alistair Kerr;

Janine opened the first meeting of the year by welcoming all to Fyrish particularly our new Committee member Phil Brewster and also to Helen & Alan who are considering joining and happy to help!

The previous minutes were taken as read.

**1. PTA Treasure Hunt/Geocaching Event**

Phil Sharples outlined the proposed event which would be organised and run by the PTA over the Easter holiday period 4-19 April.

The format would be set up along geocaching lines whereby families enter by purchasing a map of Penney's Wood (from either the local Post Office or Garage) and be given a list of clues, question sets, etc. On finding the location of the small box they would enter their name, seal the box up and proceed to find the next one. It is hoped that it will be a fun way to encourage map reading, maths and a love of being outdoors. It's also a good way to advertise Penney's Wood!

Phil suggested it would possibly involve around 15 boxes and the safety element would be addressed, i.e. sensible and appropriate footwear and clothing, an adult supervising children at all times. These conditions would be printed clearly on the flyer that the PTA will circulate.

The event would be open to all and run for the whole of the holiday period to allow participation throughout the two weeks.

It was suggested that the PTA may like to make a small donation to Penney's Wood from their profits and Phil agreed to run this idea past the PTA committee.

An up to date map would be emailed to Phil by Stuart & Judy.

The Committee agreed that it was a great idea and were happy for it to proceed. Phil thanked the Committee and left the meeting.

**2. Committee Vacancies**

Janine advised that Penny & Duncan Pritchard had decided to leave the Committee and they were thanked by all for their past work and help with running the woodland.

Phil Brewster, who has previously been a great help, has now agreed to join the Committee and Helen & Alan Cassidy are considering doing so.

**3. Tree Maintenance**

Janine was advised by John Wheatley that trees should not be freed until the start of Summer (May) as the deer might eat the trees instead of the grass.

Many trees are needing attention as they are listing so resetting is required with the supports positioned on the West side to provide more stability. John is putting in some larger posts to assist with this.

In the next working party it is suggested that it would be easier to work in pairs as the trees are much larger and heavier and to ensure the trees stand straight Judy advised that we still have plenty of rubber straps which should be put on in a figure of 8 - a demo of the correct way will be shown at the start of work if required. Janine also has some hessian strapping from John Wheatley.

**Action: All**

**4. Funding**

We applied to the Fossoway Community Benefit Fund to purchase our own mower and shed and they have allocated us £800 this year. General discussion on what was the best way forward as this amount had been specifically given for a mower and would not be enough to cover the mower, far less the mower and shed.

Janine suggested that we apply to another fund, Kinross-shire Fund, although it was a long on-line application form we could hopefully use the same information previously submitted to the FCBF. The 1st May is the next application date.

We need to make a decision by July so as not to lose the £800 allocated and we could ask if we could use the allocation towards a shed. Iain agreed to check if this is possible.

**Action: Iain & Janine**

Alan Tennant mentioned to Janine he would be happy to be involved in erecting the shed if need be.

Helen & Alan advised they were happy for us to continue using the mower - which may need to have some maintenance carried out fairly soon.

**5. Fossoway Gathering**

The Fossoway Gathering will be held on Saturday 23 May and general discussion took place on what we could do this year that involved a lot less effort, make more money and be more popular than last year!

Julie had several ideas - let kids make monkey nut ropes and fabric bags for sale. Judy suggested Tunnock’s may donate biscuits as they do for Kinross Runners and agreed to look into this. Hazel's baking and Iain’s tablet went down a storm last year and this would be increased by others baking too.

Gill suggested that the 'shift' system could be tightened up this year so nobody had to look after the stand for too long!

**Action: All**

**6. AOCB**

Julie reported that she is still having difficulties obtaining the necessary legal documents regarding the Wayleave to the SSE. It appears the title deeds may not have been properly sorted out in the early days of the Fossoway Access & Amenity Group. However we now have a file of documents charting our entitlement to the land and Constitution changes. These show land allocation and original Constitution evolving to become Penney’s Community Woodland. The Charities Commission has accepted all changes so hopefully this will satisfy SSE and any other purpose.

There was general discussion regarding the responsibilities of a Trustee with particular regard to insurance liabilities. There may be further clarification on the Charities website and Iain will look through our folders to see if there is any information there.

**Action: Iain**

Julie advised that we may not have to pay for the website as they have changed the charging mechanism. Instead of paying for the name [www.penneyswood.org.uk](http://www.penneyswood.org.uk/) they now charge a monthly fee for hosting the website. As it is hosted on one of Julie's PC's we do not need to pay for this.

The meeting closed.

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| **Proposed meeting dates for 2020:** |  |
| ***Working Party to reset trees*** | ***Sunday 15 March 10-12*** |
| ***AGM & General Meeting*** | ***Sunday 26 April, Fyrish 3.00 pm*** |
| ***Working Party to free a tree*** | ***Sunday 10 May, 10-12*** |
| ***Fossoway Gathering*** | ***Saturday 23 May*** |
| ***General Meeting*** | ***Wednesday 10 June, Fyrish 7.30 pm*** |
| ***Farmers Market set up*** | ***Saturday 27 June*** |
| ***Summer Picnic*** | ***August?*** |
| ***Farmers Market set up*** | ***Saturday 25 September*** |
| ***General Meeting*** | ***Wednesday 7 Octobr, Fyrish 7.30 pm*** |
| ***Work Party end of season*** | ***Sunday 18 October 10-12*** |