**PENNEY’S WOOD COMMUNITY WOODLAND AGM AND GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD IN PENNEY’S WOOD ON SUNDAY 19 JULY 2020 AT 4.00 pm**

**Present:**

Janine Brodie; Judy Dobson; Iain Campbell; Alistair Kerr; Hazel Cameron; Phil Brewster; Julie King; Gill Kerr;

**Apologies:**

Stuart Dobson; Alan & Helen Cassidy; Willie & Helena Thomson;

Janine opened the meeting by welcoming all to the AGM and meeting – the first held in Penney’s Wood. Unfortunately the AGM had to be delayed from the original date in April due to COVID-19.

The Minutes for the 2019 AGM were circulated prior to the meeting and taken as read.

Duncan and Penny Pritchard have left the Committee and we thank them for all the work they did and the photos and rota organisation Duncan undertook. Willie Thomson has agreed to take over the mowing rota. Stuart Dobson has decided to leave the Committee but is still happy to help with maintenance of the woodland which is very much appreciated. We welcome Phil Brewster and Helen & Alan Cassidy to the Committee.

**Office Bearers**

Janine agreed to stay as Chairperson; Judy Dobson volunteered to take over the role of Treasurer from Iain; Julie as Web Site Manager and Gill agreed to stay as Secretary. We would like to thank Iain for the many hours of work he has put in on behalf of the Committee on financial records and applications for funding.

**Chairperson’s Report**

This was read by Janine and agreed by the Committee. Copy attached.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Iain circulated the financial report. Copy attached.

Iain advised that the closing balance of the bank account was £11,373.85 with the addition of £1000 from face covering sales and £800 from the Fossoway Community Benefit Fund (which is given after receipts are produced) yet to go through the account. Iain has spoken to the Fund who advised that the time limit has been lifted due to the lockdown. The account then stands at a healthy £13,173.85. (Julie advised there would be a further amount raised from mask sales).

There was no AOCB so the AGM closed.

**GENERAL MEETING**

**Mower**

Janine had sent a detailed email with costings and options to the Committee for their consideration prior to the meeting. After discussion, it was agreed that we would purchase a Husqvarna TS138 at a cost of around £1800 (this year’s price to be confirmed) from JBW Smith in Cupar whom we hope will deliver and also give us a free first service of the machine.

**Action: Janine**

**Shed**

The various options were considered and discussed at length. It was agreed that the shed would need to be metal for insurance purposes. It was also agreed that a container style shed would be more substantial and, if clad in wood, would have a more aesthetic look and blend into the surrounding woodland. It was agreed that we would purchase a 10’ x 8’ x 8’ container from Fruix Storage for £1000 delivered which we would clad ourselves. The doors are likely to be painted. Commercial cladding costs an additional £1176. Fruix can also provide slabs for it to be laid on. It will be sited at the side of the main gate in the shadow of the big tree for ease of delivery and access.

Hazel agreed to obtain a quote for timber and Janine would ask Alan Tennant if he would help with the cladding/screening as he has previously expressed an interest in assisting. A notice would be posted on the notice board and a courtesy letter given to immediate neighbours advising of this plan.

**Action: Janine & Gill + all woodworkers!**

**Woodland Walk (October/November)**

Judy asked who would carry out Risk Assessment for this and Janine confirmed that we would merely be hosting the event and stewarding. Everything else would be the responsibility of the Fossoway Gathering Committee. Janine and Willie had a lengthy meeting with the FGC to look at preliminary ideas, lighting, parking, safety etc. If the event goes ahead we would do the marshmallow roasting. The Gathering committee will liaise with us and we will need to check our Insurance cover.

**Tree Maintenance**

Alan & Helen had expressed concern about the buckthorn that had been encroaching on to their garden and asked if it could be controlled. It was agreed that they could cut back what was intruding into their garden.

Unfortunately we missed the opportunity to put weed-killer around the smallest trees to help them and now couldn’t do anything until the grass dies back. As the tree canopy gets larger the grass should become less vigorous.

Judy advised that some of the larger, heavier trees down at the south gate had blown over as the ground was so wet. It was decided that coppicing these would be a practical idea and this would be carried out later in the year.

Julie was concerned that the bridge over the burn (nearest St. Thomas’) was sited too low. When the stream was in spate the water could not fully pass beneath, and burst it’s banks. This flooded the woodland, which in turn flooded the road, and into the gardens then the properties south of the woodland. The flooding this year in February was particularly bad and damaged properties.

She suggested that the bridge should be raised up to create a step which would help contain the water in the stream.  This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

**AOCB**

There being no further AOCB the meeting closed.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Proposed meeting dates for 2020 (dependant on COVID-19 restrictions):** |  |
| ***Farmers Market set up*** | ***Saturday 25 September*** |
| ***General Meeting*** | ***Wednesday 7 October, Fyrish 7.30 pm*** |
| ***Work Party end of season*** | ***Sunday 18 October 10-12am*** |
| ***Woodland Walk?*** | ***October/November*** |