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

**HELD AT FYRISH ON TUESDAY 14 MARCH 2023 AT 7.30 PM**

**Present:** Janine Brodie; Chris McCaughey; Lesley Graham; James Graham; Phil Brewster; Helen Cassidy; Helena Thompson; Gill Kerr;

**Apologies:** Hazel Cameron; Julie King; Judith Dobson; Alastair Kerr;

Janine welcomed all to the meeting and the Minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read.

**Farmer’s Market**

Volunteer groups were split for the two markets as follows:

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| **Saturday 22 April 2023** | **Saturday 24 June 2023** |
| Willie & Helena | Chris (+ tow bar) |
| Hazel & Ewen | Judith & Stuart |
| Helen & Alan if available | Janine |
| James & Lesley (+ tow bar) | Patrick (Chris to ask) |
| Phil & Janine | Helen & Iain Davidson? (Gill will ask) or others |

**Strimmer test plots**

It was agreed that the strimmed test plot had really kept the weeds down and it was decided that more plots would be done towards the burn at the West end of the woods during late May, June and July, when the weeds would be knee high. This would be dependent on weather.

**Noticeboard**

Stuart has very kindly volunteered to refurbish the noticeboard and replace the lock and key. Helen agreed to update the poster with new photos and information and this will also be used for the Fossoway Gathering.

**Blackthorn**

It was agreed to continue to pull out and spray regrowth with glyphosate and trees would be planted at a later date. Judith had previously advised that the tree poppers she had been using had been borrowed from Vane Farm and the possibility of buying some for long term use was discussed but no decision made. The leaves of regrowth should be sprayed and James advised that he would use a brush cutter which cuts to the ground.

**Fencing**

Another perennial problem! General discussion on the fencing and the difficulty in finding someone to undertake the work. Phil & Chris agreed that they would take a look at fencing requirements by the South gate and lead a team if the work is feasible. Phil thought he may be able to borrow wire tensioners etc.

**Work Party**

This was scheduled for Sunday 14 May between 10-12 weather permitting.

**Fossoway Gathering**

It was agreed that we would have a stand at the Gathering In September. This would be along the lines of last year with baking and possibly plants & trees – keep it simple!

**School**

Janine has met Paula Woods the new headteacher and promoted use of the woodland by the nursery and school children. She also passed on links from Judith regarding the John Muir Award and the creation of butterfly areas to increase species. Helen asked if photos could be taken of school children using the woods for the noticeboard poster.

AOB

Willow round the green shed is starting to ‘fledge’.

Zones to be revised at a later meeting and names amended as necessary.

Legalities update – Andrew Baillie has contacted Wilsons re the small piece of land (on sharp corner of Back Crook) and is hopeful of receiving paperwork for this piece of ground for the Woodland.

Helena had been asked about new paths but it was agreed that the area concerned was too marshy.

It was agreed to hold either a Barbeque on Friday 9 June 6-8; or a Picnic on Saturday 10 June 1-3 which will be open to all. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

The meeting closed.

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| **Dates for 2023** | **Event** |
| ***Spring Work Party*** | ***Sunday 14 May 10-12*** |
| ***Farmer’s Market*** | ***Saturday 22 April***  ***Saturday 24 June*** |
| ***General Meeting*** | ***Sunday 23 April in PW 4.00pm*** |
| ***AGM*** | ***Sunday 23 April in PW 4.00pm*** |
| ***Summer Picnic & Barbeque*** | ***Friday 9th 6-8; or Saturday 10th June 1-3*** |
| ***Fossoway Gathering*** | ***tba*** |