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

**HELD AT FYRISH ON SUNDAY 24 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 3.30 PM**

**Present:** Janine Brodie; Julie King; James Graham; Hazel Cameron; Helen Cassidy; Alan Cassidy; Gill Kerr;

**Apologies:** Judith Dobson; Alastair Kerr; Lesley Graham; Phil Brewster; Chris McCaughey; Helena & Willie Thompson;

Janine welcomed all to the meeting and the Minutes of the meeting on 23 April 2023 were approved.

**Fossoway Gathering**

It was agreed that it had been a successful day: the weather was sunny; the rota of helpers worked well; we sold all the baking and trees; and made a profit!

Janine reported that she had names and phone numbers of folk who were interested in helping out in the woodland.

**Farmer’s Markets**

The first one in April had gone well with enough helpers. The second in June had been very difficult as there were not enough folk (due mainly to holidays etc) to assist and we had to be helped out by others.

**Mowing and strimming**

Alan advised that the mowing WhatsApp group seemed to be working well. He advised that the drive belt on the mower kept slipping and coming off. This was due to the L-bracket on the drum being bent which needs to be repaired. This had probably been caused by the bumpy terrain. James advised that he would speak to Willie and try to fix the problem. We need to check with Cupar if it is still under Warranty.

**Action: James & Willie**

We thanked Shane for bringing his tractor to the woodland to ‘flail’ and increase the width of the paths and agreed it might be something we could ask him to do next year.

Stuart has strimmed a large area of the rose bay willow herb down at the south gate and it looked much clearer. The trial patch of strimming is looking much better and there seem to be fewer weeds returning. Thistle seems to be everywhere this year so it was suggested that a Strimming Group be organised next year to concentrate on specific areas.

Willow round the cabin has been cropped as it was not long enough for crossing. Unfortunately the north side hasn’t grown well as its too dark and west is struggling, possibly due to stakes/plastic tubes falling on them. Stuart is planning to grow more for planting in Spring.

**Work Party (Sunday 22 October 10-12am)**

General discussion took place on tasks for the work party. It was decided to concentrate on the following:

* Removing dead, dying and diseased trees;
* Check ties are not too tight.
* Molehills to be flattened on paths and rabbit holes to be filled.

**AOB**

Hazel suggested that the school did not seem to be using the woodland as much this year. The school had lost some staff trained in outdoor learning and Janine & Hazel agreed to contact the headteacher to encourage and promote use. They would also mention Amanda James’ email (circulated by Janine last Friday):

*We have been talking with the Tayside Biodiversity group about moving to be designated a Biodiversity Village, and they are positive about areas we have already, in particular Penney's wood. That could lead to accessing funding for any nature developments. We are planning a mapping session and open meeting in the village hall at 2.30 on Sunday 8th October to tell people about this and hope to find some volunteers to go forward with a project or two, eg a paths group, monitoring wildlife or recording plants in the area. We'd be very pleased if a few people from the woodland group would be able to join us to share ideas, no big commitments needed!*

**Action: Janine & Hazel (and anyone who would like to attend the meeting on 8th October)**

Although the padlock on the container is awkward to open, it is secure and a better one was hard to find. It was agreed that the current one will have to do! (keys for cabin held by Willie, Stuart, Janine).

Apples – please encourage family and friends to pick some! James advised he will strim a pathway to the larger trees for easier access and Gill will put a poster on the Noticeboard.

**Action: James & Gill**

The annual ditch inspection has been held and we are awaiting outcome.

James asked if any sighting of grey squirrels could be reported to him (email: [1704as@gmail.com](mailto:1704as@gmail.com)) or The Red Squirrel Survival Trust (email: info@rsst.org.uk) please.

The meeting closed.

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| **Dates for 2023** | **Time** |
| ***Autumn Work Party*** | ***Sunday 22 October 10-12 am*** |