**WOOD COMMUNITY WOODLAND GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD AT FYRISH ON TUESDAY 27 AUGUST 2024 AT 7.00 PM**

**Present:** Janine Brodie; Judith Dobson; James Graham; Alan Cassidy; Marianne White; Willie Thompson; Gill Kerr;

**Apologies:** Julie King; Lesley Graham; Helen Cassidy; Helena Thompson; Pete White; Alastair Kerr; Phil Brewster; Chris McCaughey;

Janine welcomed all to the meeting.

Fossoway Gathering

The Gathering will be held on Saturday 7 September. Willie will check to see if the back board fits in his car and take it down on Friday. Volunteers to take a turn on the rota are: Janine, Judith, Hazel, Marianne and Gill. James and Lesley will also be able to assist. Gill will send out a rota suggesting suitable times shortly and all baking goods will be gratefully received for sale.

Our thanks to Helen who has prepared some great posters asking for volunteers to help with the dry stane wall and for general help with work parties etc. These will be displayed at the Gathering, on Facebook (James has done this) and web site, our Noticeboard and at the shop. Marianne will take a poster into the school for any interested parents.

Dry Stane Wall

James has spoken to Harold Greer at the Gelvan who has stone available and would be happy to give to the wall project. The stones would need to be recovered from a weed/grassy area and Harold will lend his loader with bucket to James so that they can be moved safely. Willie will send a note via WhatsApp to folk on the mower rota to get a small team of helpers for this. The work on the pylons at Gelvan is also bringing large stones to the surface which can be used plus Alastair’s stones which can be moved by the loader.

Willie suggested that a small thank you gift be given to Harold and this was heartily agreed.

Janine suggested that a sub-group be formed to lead the wall project. Willie and James have already been liaising on this and Willie will send a note via the mowers WhatsApp group to ask for helpers. We hope also to encourage interest with the posters. Chris had previously advised that Morgan may be interested in helping and Judith will advise Norman in the Drum.

The likely start date for this will be the end of September.

New Plot

Judith has researchedHeritage Trees Scotland who can provide fruit trees which are specifically suitable to grow well in our area. The fruit trees would be apple, pear and plum (8 trees) and it was agreed that we would purchase these for £220. The Tree Council may fund this and Judith will submit an application to them. (We pay upfront and reclaim). Judith suggested that the ground where the trees will be planted should be sprayed with glyphosate to remove weeds and grass to give the trees a good start. Once planted, hessian collars would help suppress weed regrowth.

The best time for planting is November – end February.

**Autumn Work Party – Saturday 19 October 10-12 am (20th as back up if wet)**

Removal of dead trees

Pruning and cutting back trees on the paths

Removal of obstacles on paths (large stone by Robert & Kirsty’s and a large stake on path parallel to burn).

Judith has yellow rattle seeds to plant in bare areas.

James and Pete have chain saws and appropriate safety wear.

Judith will purchase a yellow road marker paint to identify trees to be cut down as near to ground as possible

James suggested making hedgehog teepee style homes with the cut wood.

AOB

Julie had sent an email prior to the meeting regarding the ditch. P & K Flood team advised her that although there is a lot of growth in the ditch there is nothing to be concerned about at the moment. We just need to keep monitoring the silt levels after winter or major rainfall, as it will need dredging at some point in the future.

Janine thanked all those who had helped with the Farmers Market. Brouwein said that we are a great team and asked if we would like to do any more. It was agreed that two per year were sufficient!