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

**HELD AT FYRISH ON SUNDAY 27 APRIL 2025 AT 10.30 AM**

**Present:** Janine Brodie; Judith Dobson; Lesley Graham; James Graham; Willie Thompson; Julie King;

Marianne White; Gill Kerr;

**Apologies:** Chris McCaughey; Alastair Kerr; Alan Cassidy; Helen Cassidy; Hazel Cameron; Helena Thompson; Helen Davidson;

Janine welcomed all to the meeting and the Minutes of the 2024 AGM (circulated by email prior to the meeting) were accepted.

**AGM**

**Chairperson’s Report**

Janine read her very comprehensive report on what has been a busy year (copy attached).

**Treasurer’s Report**

Judith detailed the balance sheet which looked very healthy (copy attached).

There was general discussion on how the surplus funds could be spent and a number of ideas, including getting a professional to demonstrate and advise on how to carry out coppicing, could be considered.

**Office Bearers**

**Chair**: Although Janine agreed to continue generally overseeing the group as Chair for the present, she suggested that the role be broken down into different jobs which will be undertaken by other committee members. Lesley volunteered to take over the organisation of the Farmer’s Market; Willie & James continue the organisation of the new wall; Willie the mowing & strimming path rotas; we are still to find a volunteer to take over the Fossoway Gathering rota. Julie suggested that it would be a good idea to have a reference table with the name of the person holding each job.

Janine advised that although she wanted to stand down as Chair, she would still be a member of the committee and meetings could still be held at Fyrish.

**Treasurer:** Judith agreed to continue as Treasurer.

Secretary: Gill advised that she was standing down as Secretary and Judith kindly agreed to take notes at future meetings.

**Web**: Julie agreed to continue updating and organising the web page.

Janine thanked Gill for her contribution to the group. Gill thanked her and said that although she was no longer part of the committee, she was happy to bake and help out on our stand at the Fossoway Gathering.

There being no other business, the 2024 AGM closed.

**General Meeting**

Previous minutes were accepted.

Application for Strimmer

Judith advised that currently there was nobody looking at applications to the Fossoway Council for the community fund. Willie agreed to contact Sarah Bruce-Jones to ask what was happening to the funds.

Nesting boxes

Thanks to all who installed these. We are still waiting for Robin and Sparrow boxes to arrive, although probably too late for nesting this year. We can get cameras to monitor the boxes and tracking pads for the Hogilos which will be interesting. Amanda James is putting up bat boxes in the Wallace’s wood. Filling for the boxes has arrived and Willie & James will install this.

Dry Stane Wall

This had been a successful day. The wall is starting to look good and although hard work, it really does make a difference to the entrance at the top gate. The team working on it have learnt a lot from Robert about construction and now feel confident to continue once we obtain more flat stones. James will have a word with Harold Greer as there are a lot of stones in his field, Stuart & Judith have taken some round from their garden and Janine also has some that can be used from her garden. Marianne advised that Peter has a stone cutter if required.

Mowing and Strimming

Willie advised that Alastair will be doing the first cut of the season in early May. He said some people who had helped with the wall may also be interested in joining the rota. It was on the Forward Plan that strimming would be undertaken in larger projects/areas and it was suggested that Stuart might like to take the lead on this. Judith said she would ask him if he would like to do this.

Planting in the Orchard

Janine had 13 wild cherry saplings which needed to be grown on before planting. James & Lesley agreed to keep them in their greenhouse nursery for the time being. Amanda James had kindly donated snowdrops and these have been planted.

AOB

Julie advised that SSE had removed the fallen telegraph pole last week. Now that we had legal paperwork in order, she was expecting to receive the Wayleave this week so we can receive a small income from the telegraph pole (about £50 pa).

Janine advised that she had emailed a copy of the legal paperwork to Gill and Judith so there was more than one copy on file.

Julie requested that we alternate meeting dates between a weekday evening and weekend to give everyone a chance to attend. It was agreed that we would do this in future.

Marianne advised that Alicia and Lillah were hoping to hold a Summer party and asked if they could use the Woodland. It was agreed that previous summer parties have been very successful and well attended and we would be delighted for them to use the Woodland.

There being no other business, the meeting closed.