

## **Final Minutes for Maryculter Woodlands Trust Meeting for Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

Board Members present : Ed Thorogood, Bill Caffyn, Nigel Astell, Alice McAra, David Brainwood ,  
Susan Astell

Apologies : Inga Milne

### **Election of Office Bearers**

This was the first meeting of the new Board for the Maryculter Woodlands Trust and David, Nigel & Susan were welcomed as new Directors. The election of office bearers was carried out, with results as follows:

Chair Ed Thorogood

Treasurer Bill Caffyn

Secretary Susan Astell

### **Minutes**

The minutes for November were accepted.

### **Finances**

Current bank balance is £32,188. This sum excludes the following

**Known Future Receipts:** £73.50 from Dean for logs

**Known Future Payments:** £154.65 to Inga for Winter Wonderland Walk expenses

£38 to Ed for TCV membership (Ed's expenses)

£30 to HMRC for VAT collected on log sales

£130 donation to be spent on signage for horse riders

£900+VAT to Eastland Foresters (brush-cutting on Oldman Hill)

~£2,000+VAT to Robertson Agriforest (work about to start)

~£20,000+VAT to Alan Whiteford Plant Hire (Forest Road)

~£5,130 Orchard (incl wind farm grant of £4,050)

Bill informed the Board that it would be worth submitting the next Gift Aid claim.

**Action: Ed & Bill to process claim for gift aid**

**Action: Bill to set up payments for expenses incurred by Inga & Ed**

**Action: Nigel to send invoice to MWT for brush-cutting work**

Dean Turner was approached with a view to doing the accounts and he is happy to do so. Our deadline is May. **Action Bill to meet with Dean to get accounts signed-off**

## Projects

An e-mail went out to members to update the community on the current works taking place in the wood. A Facebook post was also created and a summary pinned on the main noticeboard inside the wood.

The harvester has started the thinning operations in the wood as per our Thinning Licence. Work is currently ongoing in the Western Hemlock and Spruce stands to the east of the burn. The gate & noticeboard at the burnside entrance have been removed to avoid damage from felling operations. Timber will be extracted via this entrance so it will need to be widened to give lorries the space to turn. The hag will be left on the path, temporarily blocking access, and will be mulched, or removed, later.

Rob Robertson from Robertson-Agriforest hopes to begin mulching on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January. He will use his slew to drag hag onto the paths ready for mulching. This will give a thicker layer of chip on the new circular track in the larch area. He will also lay drainage pipes under the track in the wettest areas.

Alan Whiteford hopes to begin work on the new 660 metre forest road on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January. There is a quantity of stone available in the wood, but not enough to justify a rock crusher.

Alan Whiteford has also left a pile of topsoil in the wood in preparation for the community orchard project.

The brush-cutting trial has demonstrated that it is the most efficient means to tackle the spruce seedlings on Oldman Hill (compared to using a chainsaws, loppers or mulchers). It was discussed whether to hire Eastland Foresters for another 2 days (£900 + VAT) to continue the brush-cutting on the flanks of Oldman Hill down as far as the lodgepole pine. This was agreed by the Board.

**Action: Nigel to bring crew in for another 2 days of work**

## Orchard

The grant application assumed an enclosure of 20m x 20m. Deer fencing comes in a 100m roll so it was agreed that we attempt to make the enclosure as large as possible i.e. up to 25m x 25m. It is still to be decided where to source the trees and shrubs to stock the orchard. **Action: David to investigate local varieties that fruit well in our climate & discuss with Nigel.**

## Tree planting

There will be 700 trees arriving at the end of March in addition to the trees still stored in Ed's garden & Sue's vegetable patch.

### Fencing

Altries Estate has offered us some old deer fencing. Bill has already gathered it up ready for collection. It is not in good enough condition for the orchard project but should still be of use to us. **Action: Nigel to arrange to collect and store it.**

### Access

Dawn Ewan and Nigel will meet with George Knox to discuss safe access to the wood for the children of Mucky Boots when the new houses are built in the Kirkton.

### Events

Inga is working on the next Quiz Night which will probably happen towards the end of February.

### AOB

1. John Skinner has requested a meeting to walk the boundary between his land and the wood to discuss drainage concerns. **Ed to action.**
2. Dale Haslam from the Evening Express has asked us to contact him.
3. Roger Owen from the Scottish Wildlife Trust would like to visit the wood in July.
4. John McCafferty, the financial planner for the Church in the Kirkton, has been in touch to discuss access rights to the land behind Kirkton Cottage.
5. At the AGM the access for children's buggies at the Polson Road gate was mentioned and this was discussed as a possible work party project to improve access.
6. New marine grade padlocks should be purchased as the existing ones are not robust enough to withstand the weather. Agreed 5 padlocks and 12 keys. **Action Ed to purchase.**
7. Insurance. It was discussed whether we should formalize our relationship with horse riders in the wood to make sure that they have their own public liability insurance. This requirement should be displayed on the notice board and entrances to the wood. **Action: Ed**
8. Dawn mentioned that she owes £25 as her annual rent for using the wood for Mucky Boots. **Action: Ed to send invoice to Dawn**

Next meeting will be on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm at Ed's house.