

Minutes for Maryculter Woodlands Trust for Thursday 1st November 2018, Eastland

Members Present: Bill Caffyn, David Brainwood, Susan Astell, Ed Thorogood, Inga Milne, Nigel Astell

Apologies: Alice McAra,

Minutes: The previous minutes were accepted

Finance: The current bank balance is £5,982

The following payments were made:

1. £5,047 (incl £841 VAT) to Alan Whiteford for remaining work on forest roads (extra crusher run and blinding on new forest road, new blinding on worst sections of old forest roads, widening the tight corner in the new road)

The following payments were received:

1. £3,736 VAT repayment

Known Liabilities:

1. Orchard/tree nursery £2,164 for expansion (invoiced but not yet paid), £2,040 for fruit trees, £340 for shrubs to climb up deer fence. The order for the orchard trees and plants has yet to be placed. **Action:** David & Nigel to order fruit trees this month
2. Signs £120.86 (invoice received but not yet paid). **Action:** Bill to set up payment
3. ~£300 Zurich Insurance, memberships & AGM
4. Chap Quarries. Delivery of 'dirty' sand. Hopefully a charitable donation

Known Income:

1. Gift aid still to be claimed

Projects

Roads All work completed for now. All invoices paid.

Orchard. Nothing to report.

Nest boxes. Nothing to report

Recycled Deer fencing. Nothing to report. **Action:** Ed, Nigel & Bill to agree a location.

Pond Application submitted to Meikle Carewe Wind Farm Community Fund seeking funds for a pond liner. **Action:** Nigel to check if any companies are interested making a donation to the project. **Action:** Nigel to get planning advice in writing from shire council.

Insect hotel. Work is progressing well.

Burnside Entrance. There has been some fly tipping of soil and garden waste next to the forest road on the area that we have used to stack cut timber. Nigel has used his digger to level this material. He also used stone from his yard (including stone from Kevin/Inga's garden wall!) to consolidate the area. People will almost certainly attempt to use this area for parking but we will continue our policy to not advertise this as a parking area.

George Masson has asked if we would consider re-instating the ford of the burn located near the end of the resurfaced burnside road. This would allow carriages (and also our hired vehicles) to cross the burn and so access the main forest roads from the burnside entrance.

Events

November Work-Party Main task will be to re-install the gate and noticeboard at the Burnside entrance (Note: this scope was originally planned for the October work party, which was rained-off). We can use the weekend of the Dec work-party to gather birch logs ready for sale at the Winter Wonderland Walk.

AGM Agreed to meet at 6.45pm to get room ready & check refreshments, IT etc. No new members have expressed a desire to join the Board. No resolutions have been proposed by members ahead of the meeting. **Action:** Ed to confirm if Alice still resident in Maryculter.

Beerfest. Thanks to Inga & Kevin, there is now a fantastic bar in the garage of 4 Oldman Road, ready for the beerfest. Dates in November were discussed, with 16th Nov seen as the best date, start 8pm. **Action:** Ed to confirm date. **Action:** Inga to do order beer etc

Winter Wonderland Walk. Normally held in mid-Dec, hence either Sun 9th Dec or Sun 16th Dec. **Action:** Board to check diaries and agree date.

AOB

We have been approached to supply a 25ft spruce as a Christmas tree. We have quoted £10/ft. We will also need to arrange delivery and lifting the cut tree to an upright position at the chosen site in Porthlethen. **Action:** Nigel & Ed to arrange felling & transport, and agree delivery date with customer.

Nigel has acquired a digger!

Next Meeting Provisionally, Thurs 6th Dec at Ed's house. David might be away. Alice may be able to make Tues 4th Dec- Ed to check.