

## **Minutes for Maryculter Woodlands Trust Board Meeting on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

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

**Apologies:** Inga Milne, Alice McAra,

**Minutes.** The previous minutes were accepted

**Finances** Current balance in bank account (end May): £12,950

### **The following payments were made:**

1. £2,731 incl VAT to Alan Whiteford. The final invoice for all work completed to date
2. £30 CWA membership
3. £60.48 Bill's expenses for ties
4. £32.15 Inga's expenses for catering

### **The following payments were received:**

1. £3,744 VAT reclaim
2. £5 - our first payment from Amazon Smile

### **Known Liabilities**

1. Orchard/tree nursery £4,050 for construction + £1,080 for plants + £4,200 for expansion
2. Signs £130
3. Ed's expenses of £142 for 2 hammers, 4 spades and 500 ties

### **Known Income**

1. Timber Sales (invoice issued to Bill Munro for £8,126.30. Waiting for payment)
2. Giftaid claim (not yet submitted)
3. SSE Wayleave. Cheque received for £183.42
4. The Balmoral Group (J Milne) will donate £1,000- cheque to be issued shortly

## Projects

1. **New Forest Roads.** Alan Whiteford has provided a price list for the scope to complete the forest roads. Roads and mulching were discussed at length to ascertain what funding to allocate and what work should take priority. This resulted in the following scope agreed by the Board:
  - a. £1,500 Crusher run on upper (top) road (approx 60m). To use crusher run on all of the exposed road foundation would be over £6,000 and is therefore unaffordable. This reduced scope will just deal with the worst part of the road surface
  - b. £3,000 Crusher run plus tar planings/dust on Lower (Burnside) road
  - c. £2,500 Crusher run on main road from just south of the T junction down to where the main road bends off to the left towards the burn
  - d. The new road still needs a little more crusher run, to be negotiated with Alan. There is not enough budget to blind the new section (660m), but brushing-in some sand might be good enough. The SE corner is too tight for carriage driving and for tractor turning so that could be widened at the same time.

The Board agreed to proceed based on the predicted cost of £7,000 + VAT, with up to £2,000 contingency.

The hag on the burnside road has now been gathered into piles ready for mulching.

2. **Mulching.** The Board agreed to hire a machine to create a new path through the stand of sitka spruce thinned back in January. The same machine will also tackle the hag piles on the burnside road. The Board agreed to hire a machine for 7 days of work (approx. £3,100 + VAT).
3. **Orchard.** Additional topsoil has been spread on the area. Now waiting for fencing contractor. **Action:** Nigel to chase Jim Moir fencing contractor
4. **Nest boxes.** Still some boxes to install, including the barn owl box. The plan is to put the barn owl box somewhere on the western boundary – potentially an activity for the July work party. **Action:** Nigel & Bill to arrange
5. **Deer fencing.** The old fencing donated from Altries still needs to be collected. **Action:** Nigel & Bill to arrange.
6. **Ponds.** Nigel is still looking for a digger in order to dig a pond near the Kirkton and unblock the ditch on the western boundary.
7. **Second bridge.** No update
8. **Burnside entrance.** Re-instate gate and noticeboard, but will need to wait until road is finished.

## Events.

1. **Work Party.** The next monthly work party will be on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July.
2. **Summer work party.** Confirmed as 2<sup>nd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> July with chilli fest on Fri eve for all those who participated in one or more of the working evenings during the week. Potential activities include: digging ponds, installing barn owl box, installing deer fencing, creating second bridge, painting and cladding the container, planting in the wetland areas. **Action:** Ed to create text for Facebook & mailchimp to advertise the events.
3. **SWT visit.** Sat 7<sup>th</sup> July 10.30 am. **Action** Ed to arrange
4. **Midsummer Event.** Potentially on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. The Board decided to not run this as an MWT event. We might still gather for an informal get-together.

## AOB

**Next Meeting** Thursday 12th July, 8pm, at Eastland.