

## Minutes for Maryculter Woodlands Trust Meeting on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Members Present:** Ed Thorogood, Inga Milne, Nigel Astell, David Brainwood, Susan Astell, Dawn Ewan

**Apologies** Bill Caffyn

**Minutes.** The previous minutes were accepted

**Finance:** Current bank balance stands at £13,103

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

None (£30 CWA membership recorded in previous minutes, but only drawn from bank on 19<sup>th</sup> June)

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

1. £183 SSE Wayleave

### **Known Liabilities**

1. Orchard/tree nursery £4,050 for construction + £1,080 for plants + £4,200 for expansion
2. £7,000 committed to roads
3. £3,100 committed to mulching
4. £2,000 contingency for roads/paths
5. Signs £130. **Action:** Nigel to collect signs
6. Ed's expenses of £142 for 2 hammers, 4 spades and 500 ties
7. Chap Quarries. Delivery of 'dirty' sand. Hopefully a charitable donation

### **Known Income**

1. £8,126 from Bill Munro for wood sales (cheque received)
2. £1,000 donation from Balmoral Group (cheque received)
3. Gift Aid is still to be realized

## **Projects**

A tremendous amount of work has been carried out.

1. **New Forest Roads.** Chap quarries has delivered 20t of dirty sand to the wood to be used as an interim blinding for the new road. Nigel is in negotiation on price and

hopes to get the sand as a charitable donation. **Action:** Nigel to ask if Alan is willing to expand the sharp 90 degree bend, if possible gratis, to allow easier turning for carriage driving.

2. **Mulching.** Rob is currently out of the wood but will return to complete the 7 day workscope agreed by the Board. The hag on the burnside road has been mulched. The stumps and rocks have been cleared from the circular thinning rack created during the thinning operations earlier this year. Next task is to mulch the hag on the rack. If Rob finishes the scope early then mulching in other areas may be possible to take advantage of the dry conditions.

3. **Orchard.** Nothing to report

4. **Nest boxes.** Nothing to report

5. **Deer fencing.** Nothing to report

6. **Ponds.** The pond to replace Ian Anderson's pond has been excavated (by Rob). **Action:** Nigel to find a liner. The blocked ditch along the western boundary (adjacent to John Skinner's land) has been cleared (by Rob) and a small section widened (to the reach of the digger). This has created a new, small pond. There was so much water backed-up onto John's land that the pond instantly filled once the blockage was removed. The water level on John's land is now controlled by the base of the culvert under the boundary dyke i.e. no longer controlled by anything within the wood. The board discussed the merits of digging a large pond to be situated by the Lodgepole Pine was discussed. Such a large pond will require SEPA approval and is a longer -term project

7. **Second bridge.** Deferred until next year

8. **Burnside entrance.** Still waiting for the forest road to be blinded.

9. **Insect hotel.** Stan intends to start work on the Bug Hotel on the 25<sup>th</sup> July and expects to be in the Wood for several months. **Action:** Ed to arrange a key for Stan, Nigel will investigate a supply of chukkies and discuss with Stan

## Events.

1. **Work Party.** The August Work party will be run by David

2. **Summer Work Party (2-6<sup>th</sup> July).** A huge amount of work was completed during the working week.

a. The storage container was painted forest green

b. The heather moor was partly cleared of encroaching gorse and birch.

c. Planting was carried out in the wet areas and ponds , including ragged robin, marsh marigold, lady's bedstraw, birds foot trefoil and teasel.

d. Sand was brushed into the new section of road and it will now be easier for buggies, small children and horses

3. SWT visit, 7<sup>th</sup> July. Ed gave a tour to the party from SWT. They seemed delighted with what we have achieved, and we will appear in a future newsletter
4. Nexen Work Party. Nexen Petroleum UK Ltd has been in touch (Laura Gardiner) to see if we could host a work party for them. They suggested 24<sup>th</sup> July but Ed will ask if it is possible to postpone this to August, or to the Autumn if that is better for them. **Action:** Ed to confirm dates and task for the group.

### **AOB**

Alice The GDPR is done. People can unsubscribe if they wish.

Dawn Mucky Boots is full and has a waiting list. There is a new member of staff.

Julie Robertson is offering training workshops.

University students have shown an interest.

A composting toilet would be hugely helpful and discussions are ongoing regarding funding, including advice from our local MSP

The AGM for the Woodland Association is to be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Applications for the Wind Farm Grants are to be in by the end of September. Decisions will be made in December as to which applications are successful.

FCS has put up another wood for sale at Clochandighter, Maryculter East

The next meeting will take place at 8pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August at Inga's.