

Minutes for Maryculter Woodlands Trust Board Meeting, Weds 2nd Oct, Eastland

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

Apologies: Susan Astell

Minutes: The minutes from the Sept Board meeting were approved after minor corrections.

Finance: The current bank balance is £7,043

The following payments were made (debited from bank account since the last meeting):

1. None

The following payments were received (credited to bank account since last meeting):

1. £257.30 SDV Plant sale proceeds

Known Liabilities:

1. £1000 to complete pond (geotextile, sand, digger time, plants) + liner + planning fees
2. ~£100 website hosting fees (paid by David)
3. £193 to Ed (keysafe, dog signs, pond plants for planting in working week)
4. £50 VAT to HMRC
5. £3,000 + VAT for chainsaw crew

Known Income:

1. Gift aid still to claim (£500).
2. £40 donation from community member (Paul)?

Action: Reserve a bag of birch logs for Dean in recognition of preparing the annual MWT accounts (Note: assumes that we gather birch logs this autumn)

Bill informed the Board that the BusinessOnline service offered by Clydesdale Bank will be withdrawn in November. We have been asked to migrate to their replacement service, Business Internet Banking, but this does not allow for 2 digital signatures for online payments. This is a showstopper for us as a charity as it is not compliant with OSCR guidelines. The Clydesdale helpdesk has assured Bill that they are working on a solution (we can't be the only organisation with the 2-signature requirement). Meanwhile we can only make payments by cheque, as we did before we signed up to BusinessOnline. Bill will investigate other banks if Clydesdale don't deliver the same service. Bill arranged for payment of expenses to Inga, David & Ed using the cheque book.

Projects

Pond (by Ian's garden). Planning remains an outstanding issue. Nigel suggested that our scope could fall under the de minimus rule provided we can use the spoil from the hole for forest road repairs. We are awaiting feedback from the Council. There is a chance that we will not be able to start the project this year in which case we will need to hand the grant money back to the Wind Farm.

Given this context we did not apply to the 2019 funding round of the Meikle Carewe Wind Farm Community Fund which closed for applications on 30th Sept. We need to close out the pond project one way or another before we ask for another grant on a new project. Dropping out this year could help us justify a larger grant next year.

Spruce Thinning. The chainsaw crew has spent 3 days in the wood so far, with 2 more days remaining in the approved budget.

Nest boxes, Recycled Deer Fencing:

Bill & Ed have started the deer fencing project

Mulching. The verges of the main forest roads need to be cleared of gorse & self-sown saplings. Some of the mulched tracks also need clearing, notably the route up Oldman Hill. The Board agreed to hire a mulcher for 3 days.

Action: Nigel to hire a mulching contractor for 3 days

Orchard: Three trees seem to have died, all from Ben Reid.

Action: Nigel to obtain replacement trees, which Ben Reids will replace for free.

Events

OctFest. Inga informed the Board that about 20 people had so far asked to attend.

Action: David to ask Alice to send out an email reminder for the beerfest

AGM. The date of Weds 20th November was chosen. Aileen, as a co-opted director, will need to officially vacate the role, but is eligible to stand as a full director. Aileen agreed to put her name forward. None of the other Board members have served the maximum 3 year term but there was concern that 5 members would need to step down at the 2020 AGM. To help with continuity of the Board, Nigel & Ed said that they were willing to step down at this AGM whilst still willing to serve (subject to the voting preferences of members at the AGM).

Action: Ed to book church hall with Anne & create invite for mailchimping

AOB

Gate & road. No further developments. The Church has not replied to our last email.

TCV has been in touch to ask if we want to write an article for their autumn newsletter. The Board agreed. **Action:** Ed to write article.

Ed asked the Board for permission to purchase 50m of deer netting in readiness for the planting season. Estimated cost £130. The Board agreed. **Action:** Ed to order

Action: Ed to investigate the cost of 5 keyed-alike padlocks & 15 keys

Action: Ed to send maps to Nigel for printing

Action: Nigel to suggest a date to bring in his tractor/trailer into the wood to collect birch logs

Action: Ed & Susan to finish the draft AGM minutes

Next Meeting: Weds 13th November, 8pm, Aileen's house (Windyedge)