

## Minutes for Maryculter Woodlands Trust Board Meeting, Weds 13<sup>th</sup> November, Windyedge

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

**Apologies:** n/a

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

**Finance:** The current bank balance is £6,836

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

1. £193.46 to Ed (keysafe, dog signs, pond plants for planting in working week)
2. £89.76 to David for website hosting fees (GoDaddy)
3. £40.85 to HMRC VAT payment
4. £474.23 to Inga for expenses related to the MaryculterFest
5. £28.75 to Inga for expenses (work parties, working week)

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

1. £620 donations from MaryculterFest

Known Liabilities (not yet debited from account):

1. £1,000 to complete pond (geotextile, sand, digger time, plants) + liner + planning fees
2. £3,000 + VAT for chainsaw crew
3. £1,080 + VAT for mulching
4. £162 to Ed for tree netting
5. £30 to Bill for ratchet loppers

Known Income (not yet credited to account):

1. £500 Gift aid still to claim
2. £40 donation from community member (Paul)
3. £60 donations still to come from MaryculterFest

Inga has already received the £40 cash donation from Paul and a donation of £40 from the MaryculterFest (of the £60 mentioned under item 3 above). This cash was handed to Bill. **Action:** Bill to place cash of £80 in bank.

**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 has lodged a complaint with Clydesdale about their planned cessation of the BusinessOnline service. The complaint has been upheld whilst Clydesdale work on a solution. For now, we can

continue to use BusinessOnline and we will not migrate to their replacement service, Business Internet Banking.

## Projects

**Pond (by Ian's garden).** Full planning will be required at a cost of £400. This late decision by the Shire Council will add 50% to our costs and has made the project non-viable within the timeframe of the grant from the Wind Farm (Post Meeting Note: KDP confirmed that the grant award must be spent before 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 2019). We will therefore need to delay the project to next year and start again with fundraising. **Action:** Ed to write to KDP with the news and ask for details of how to return the award of £664.

**Pond (widened watercourse).** Mr Skinner continues with his claim that our work in this watercourse (which looks like a ditch) has caused water levels to rise on his land. After he repeated these complaints at the NKRCC meeting in October, Henry (NKRCC chair) offered to help mediate as an independent person. He has since visited the site with Mr Skinner & Cllr Pike. Henry will engage the services of an independent surveyor to measure all the height differences along the watercourse either side of the boundary wall. Henry has offered to pay for this survey. There was some unease that Henry would incur these costs and a feeling that these costs should be shared with Mr Skinner. The Board nevertheless decided to give Henry complete freedom to mediate as he sees fit.

**Spruce Thinning.** Still 2 more days remaining in the approved budget.

**Nest boxes, Recycled Deer Fencing:** Nothing to report

**Mulching.** The scope has been completed (mulching of verges of the main forest roads & re-mulching the wider paths). There was also a little spare time to mulch a patch of bracken near the Crynoch Burn to see if this would help control the spread of the bracken. Waiting for invoice.

**Orchard: Action:** Nigel to obtain replacement trees from Ben Reid.

## Events

**AGM.** No new members came forward to seek election to the Board therefore Aileen, Ed & Nigel will be able to stand unopposed (but still subject to a majority vote of members at the AGM). Mr Skinner wanted some space on the agenda to discuss drainage (again).

**Winter Wonderland Walk.** Inga is unavailable on 1<sup>st</sup> Dec so the Board agreed to run the event on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec. **Action:** Inga to arrange catering, Ed/Alice to advertise event.

**Dec WP.** Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Dec. Probably tree-planting, if conditions allow

## **AOB**

TCV article was submitted and it is now in their Autumn Newsletter.

The trees from the Woodland Trust have arrived (120 trees & shrubs).

Sylvia Pike has written to request written statements from all candidate Board members prior to the AGM. This is not required in our constitution nor is it something that we are obliged to do. At this AGM there is no competition for places, all candidates have already served on the Board before and of course all members are from a small community in a small geographical area. There would of course be reasonable merit to the request if we had more candidates than places. **Action:** David to reply.

Bill, like all of us, struggles with the padlock when it locked onto the bolt of the main gate. He suggested to use the padlock just for securing the chain around the gate. This would also give SSE easier access. This was thought to be a great idea as long as the fixing point of the chain to the metal gatepost was further down the post. **Action:** Nigel to investigate a more secure fixing of chain to post

Parking in the wood is only for forestry purposes. **Action:** Ed to spread the word

**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

**Next Meeting: Weds 11<sup>th</sup> December, 8pm, Inga's house**