

## Minutes for Maryculter Woodlands Trust Board Meeting, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019, David's House

**Members Present:** Bill Caffyn, David Brainwood, Alice McAra, Ed Thorogood, Inga Milne, Nigel Astell

**Apologies:** Susan Astell

**Minutes:** The directors asked for more time to review the previous minutes (from 1.11.18 & 9.1.19) so approval remains outstanding. **Action:** Ed to resend these minutes to Board

**Finance:** The current bank balance is £4,833

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

1. £192.09 to Ed for expenses

The following payments were received (already in bank account): None

Known Liabilities:

1. £400 (+VAT) to Eastland Foresters to cut up trees which have fallen across the paths during the storms over the holiday period
2. ~£1,000 for fruit trees and shrubs to stock the orchard.
3. £700 to complete pond (geotextile, sand, digger time, plants) + £664 for liner
4. ~£150 website hosting fees
5. £3,000 (+VAT) to thin spruce in the southern stands using a chainsaw crew
6. £25.48 for keysafe
7. £88 to Ed for expenses (winter wonderland walk)

Known Income:

1. Gift aid still to be claimed (~£3,000). **Action:** Ed to ask Austin again about gift-aid
2. Supply of a Christmas tree to Portlethen Community Council. **Action:** Ed to send invoice
3. VAT refund

**Action:** Inga to resend Bill her receipt for the beerfest expenses

### Projects

**Orchard.** The first trees have been delivered, but it was not possible to plant them in the Feb work-party due to frozen ground. More trees will arrive next week. The plan remains to plant most of the trees during the March work party.

**Nest boxes.** Nothing to report

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

**Pond** Nigel has written to the Shire council about planning for pond next to Ian's garden. Awaiting response. **Action:** Nigel to order pond liner.

**Insect hotel.** Next event will be the visit of Lairhillock School on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb.

**Spruce Thinning.** Work has started on thinning the spruce in the southwestern stands. The chainsaw crew has worked about 2.5 days so far. They found a lot of large birch which has been rescued just in time. There is so much small spruce to thin out that it quickly became obvious that some processing of the felled trees would be required – just to create a cleared and safe space to continue felling. This processing has created extra work so we will not have enough funds to continue with the chainsaw crew in the stand containing the ‘ditches’ path. Any remaining scope will need to be done by volunteers during the year until the felling licence expires in Dec 2019.

**Circular Route Across Burn.** The idea behind this project is to extend the road network to connect the burnside road with the main forest roads. This would create a multi-user circular route within the wood centred on the valley of the burn. The potential elements of the project are:

- Extend the burnside road approx. 100m to reach the existing wooden bridge (replacing the muddy and uneven path that we currently have)
- Upgrade the old ford near where the burnside road currently ends to connect with the main forest road on the other side of the burn. The ford should be strong and wide enough to take horses, carriages and our forestry vehicles
- Construct a second wooden bridge over the burn near to the old tree which fell across the burn several years ago (near the start of the main bracken patch)
- Apply a new blinding to the unrestored parts of the forest road network (the windy road leading from the old ford to the container and the section from the large T junction down to the existing wooden bridge)

Ed advised the Board that he had met Iain Catto, the advisor for the new community fund from the Vattenfall offshore wind farm. Iain advised that none of the above scope would be suitable for funding as it would not meet their hurdle on ‘innovation’. They do not see forest roads as cutting-edge unless we could introduce some innovation, such as a new type of road material. Perhaps we could joint-fund with Maryculter Carriage-Driving? **Action:** Ed to talk to Kees & Nigel to talk to Tom Cross

## Events

**Mar Work-Party**          Plan to plant in the orchard.

## AOB

The time has come to update the maps in the noticeboards. Nigel can print maps on A3, Inga will investigate lamination. **Action:** Ed to send maps to Nigel for printing

Bill requested that we collect the fallen birch logs from the wood and prepare them for sale. **Action:** Nigel to suggest a date to bring in his tractor/trailer

The Board is aware that Mucky Boots wants to expand but we have no details. **Action:** David to contact Dawn to discuss further and report back. There will be some constraints on any expansion.

**Action:** Ed to write email about new office-bearers and pass it on to Alice for mail-chimping out

**Action:** Ed & Susan to finish the draft AGM minutes

Next Meeting: Tues 5<sup>th</sup> March, David’s place