

Minutes for Maryculter Woodlands Trust Board Meeting, Tuesday 5th March 2019, David's House

Members Present: David Brainwood, Alice McAra, Ed Thorogood, Inga Milne

Apologies: Susan Astell, Nigel Astell, Bill Caffyn,

Minutes: The minutes from Nov, Jan & Feb were approved. **Action:** David to load minutes to website

Finance: The current bank balance is £4,226

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

1. £528 to Eastland Foresters for emergency clearing of trees blown over during the winter storms
2. £88 to Ed for expenses (winter wonderland walk)

The following payments were received (already in bank account):

1. £9.33 from Amazon Smile

Known Liabilities:

1. ~£1,250 (incl VAT) for fruit trees and shrubs to stock the orchard.
2. £700 to complete pond (geotextile, sand, digger time, plants) + liner
3. ~£100 website hosting fees.
4. £3,000 (+VAT) to thin spruce in the southern stands using a chainsaw crew (invoice received)
5. £25.48 for keysafe (paid by Ed)

David advised the Board that renewal costs for the website & email hosting would be £337 to cover the next 4 years. The Board agreed to renew for 1 year only and seek funds later this year to allow for a longer renewal from 2020. **Action:** David to arrange website/email renewal

All trees and bushes are now ordered including £455 already spent by David (who we have yet to reimburse). There are two other invoices still to be paid – ~£300 to Ben Reid and £495 to Scottish Fruit Trees. **Action:** Bill to set up payment of expenses incurred by David & Ed. **Action:** Nigel to provide receipt from Ben Reid to claim as expenses

Known Income:

1. Gift aid still to be claimed (£3,144). **Action:** Bill & Ed to make gift-aid claim this week
2. Supply of a Christmas tree to Portlethen Community Council. **Action:** Ed to send invoice
3. VAT refund

Projects

Orchard/Nursery. The volunteers at the March workparty planted ~300 saplings in the nursery section, some fruit bushes along the perimeter fence and 4 large fruit trees at the start of the orchard section. The orchard planting grid is based on a 6x6 pattern (excluding the trees against the fence). Ed has since remeasured the grid to check everything fits into the space and confirmed that 3

locations should be rejected as they are too close to the main gate. Of the 33 locations, 23 have been planted, 8 are allocated to trees still to be delivered leaving two spare locations on the grid.

Nest boxes. Nothing to report

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

Pond Still waiting for written confirmation that planning is not required for the pond. Nigel has found a supplier for the pond liner.

Insect hotel. Everyone at Lairhillock Primary School has now participated in populating the Nest with their stick-bundles. Approx. 130 pupils took part. The event was written up in the Press and Journal and an article also appeared on the RGU website. Some pupils from Cults Primary will visit the Nest in April to continue the transformation of the Nest into an insect hotel. Stan has worked tirelessly on the project – a triumph for him and all concerned.

Spruce Thinning. Work has finished and the invoice received (£3,600 incl VAT, as agreed). The crew were also able to clear a small path through the thinned stand, accessed via railway sleepers to get across the large drainage ditch separating the forest road from the thinned stand. The budget was not enough to complete all the thinning required in the southern stands so the rest we will have to do with volunteers.

Circular Route Across Burn. The Board felt it was not worthwhile to apply to the Vattenfall community fund given their clear advice to us that the scope was not innovative enough to meet their criteria. **Action:** Ed to write to Iain Catto to advise that we will not apply.

Action: Ed to talk to Kees & Nigel to talk to Tom Cross

Events

Apr Work-Party The list includes hauling hag in the thinned areas, checking the wood for saplings to transplant into the nursery.

AOB

Ed reminded the Board that it has been over 2 years since we last asked the community council for some funds. They might therefore be willing to consider new requests from us for small items e.g. for insurance, website costs, pond plants etc. We might also, perhaps next year, ask if the annual plant sale could help us raise funds. **Action:** Ed to email Lynne about the plant sale.

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: Dawn to discuss Mucky Boots expansion plans with the Board

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: Thurs 4th April, Inga's place