

## Minutes for Maryculter Woodlands Trust Board Meeting, Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May, Ed's House

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

**Apologies:** Bill Caffyn, Nigel Astell

**Minutes:** The minutes from the April Board meeting were approved.

**Finance:** The current bank balance is £5,522

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

1. No payments made

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

1. £692 VAT repayment from HMRC

Known Liabilities:

1. £444 (incl VAT) for fruit trees and shrubs to stock the orchard (original estimate £300, paid by Nigel).
2. £700 to complete pond (geotextile, sand, digger time, plants) + liner
3. ~£100 website hosting fees (paid by David)
4. £25.48 for keysafe (paid by Ed)

**Action:** Bill to set up payment of expenses incurred by Ed, David & Nigel

Known Income:

1. Gift aid still to claim (£500).
2. Supply of a Christmas tree to Portlethen Community Council. **Action:** Ed to send invoice

### **Projects**

**Orchard/Nursery.** Nothing to report (but see AOB).

**Insect hotel.** Lairhillock visit postponed until July.

**Spruce Thinning.** Work continues by hand, at a slow but steady pace.

**Nest boxes, Pond, Recycled Deer Fencing:** Sajid has offered us a barn owl box

### **Events**

**Work-Party** The May work-party was a joint event between ourselves & Mucky Boots Forest School. We cleared the gorse adjacent to the main forest school area to allow them to spread further into the wood. This will give the forest floor near their current fire-pit time to recover. Eventually we will help them move the fire-pit and tepee into the area cleared of gorse.

**Quiz night.** Arranged for Sun 19<sup>th</sup> May. Inga asked for help to set-up at 1pm on Sunday

### **AOB**

SDV Annual Plant Sale (18<sup>th</sup> May). We will receive some of the money raised at the plant sale. In return, we need to help set-up and help run the event (serving teas etc). **Action:** Board to attend event if possible (Ed, Sue, Inga, David all agreed to attend)

We have been approached by Neil Clapperton from Common Weal Cider. He has offered us free cider apple trees to plant in the orchard in return for letting him have any windfall apples from the orchard (any variety). The Board agreed to accept this offer. **Action:** David to write to Neil

The annual report was agreed and signed by all directors present. **Action:** Bill to send signed accounts to Ed. **Action:** Ed to submit report to OSCR.

The Scottish Land Fund has asked all community groups if they would like to hold a community event in August to celebrate 'Community Land Week'. Apparently, this runs every year but we haven't been asked before. The Board discussed this and raised concerns about the need to manage visitor pressure in the wood, particularly when we are still in the early stages of woodland restoration. No action.

Inga suggested that we need a policy on how to deal with forest fires, should they occur. Perhaps we should make/order some fire-beaters. **Action:** Ed to update noticeboard with instructions about what to do in the event of a fire in the wood.

The Board discussed again some of the liberties taken by homeowners in the Kirkton who have gardens adjacent to the wood. There are many instances of garden waste and various structures appearing in the wood. Hedge clippings and thick tree branches are a particular problem as they smother the forest floor and prevent the regeneration of forest plants. The situation seems to be getting worse and large piles of garden waste are building up in the wood. The Board discussed whether to have a zero-tolerance policy or allow some 'abuses'. **Action:** David to draft a letter to homeowners to address the problem for consideration by the Board.

Inga has been approached to see if we would allow a group to set up a 2 week summer camp for autistic children in the wood. The Board felt that the wood was not a suitable location for a summer camp but perhaps they could be close by to allow day trips into the wood. Post-meeting: The group has found another location. No Action.

**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 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: 8pm, Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> June, Eastland**