

## Minutes for Maryculter Woodlands Trust Board Meeting, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, Eastland

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

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

**Finance:** The current bank balance is £5,764

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. £233.60 gross proceeds from quiz night
2. £7.96 donation from AmazonSmile

Known Liabilities:

1. £444 (incl VAT) for fruit trees and shrubs to stock the orchard (original estimate £300, paid by Nigel). **Action:** Nigel to doublecheck this figure
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)
5. £30 CWA membership
6. Quiz night expenses

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

Known Income:

1. Gift aid still to claim (£500).
2. Supply of a Christmas tree to Portlethen Community Council. **Action:** Ed to send invoice
3. ~£250 SDV Plant sale proceeds
4. ~£1150 donated by Hannah Deen following her sponsored half-marathon in Edinburgh

## Projects

**Second wooden bridge.** Possible project for this summer, requiring the felling of 2 large sitka. We would need a digger for the bridge and we should also consider using a digger to scrape a new road surface extending the existing burnside road towards the existing wooden bridge. The route would be along the base of slope on the edge of the Norway stand and it would give visitors easier access to the existing bridge – the current desire line can get very wet and all the exposed roots make the surface very uneven. A digger could simply scrape down to hard & then we could see if this was good enough. If not, we could raise funds for a blinding to complete the extension of the forest road.

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

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

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

The Board agreed to spend up to £2000 (+VAT) to work on: 1) the pond near Ian, 2) the second bridge and 3) the burnside road extension. Most of this money will be used to hire a digger for a week @ £320/day

**Action:** Nigel to hire digger, ideally to coincide with working week (see **Events**)

**Action:** Nigel to confirm in writing that the pond near Ian does not require planning

### Events

**Working Week.** The board agreed to run the annual 'working week' from Mon 1st July to Fri 5<sup>th</sup> July. Inga will arrange chilli fest on the Fri night. The potential projects are: 2<sup>nd</sup> bridge, owl box, check planted trees, maintenance of heather moor, plant around pond near Ian, litter pick, spruce thinning, rake out ditch on burnside road, haul hag, gather birch logs.

**Action:** Ed to draft working week flyer for Alice to mailchimp to members

**Action:** Inga to arrange catering for working week (incl chilli fest on Fri 5<sup>th</sup> for those who have helped in the week.

### AOB

Hannah Deen ran a half marathon in Edinburgh and raised funds for MWT. She raised £1150 to be used towards the creation of ponds in the wood. Great effort & much appreciated Hannah!

**Action:** David to draft a letter to homeowners to remind them not to take possession of any part of the wood for their own use e.g. dumping garden waste.

**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

The board agreed to co-opt a director to replace Alice to sit until the next AGM. The Board agreed that we should first seek to recruit someone who already works regularly in the wood. Aileen sprang to the top of the list. **Action:** Ed to ask Aileen if she wants to be a co-opted director.

**Next Meeting: Sat 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 9am, at the noticeboard**