

Maryburgh Community Woodland Group



Thursday 3rd October 2024 @ 7.00pm
Maryburgh Amenities Centre

MINUTE of meeting.		ACTION:
1.	<p>Welcomes and Apologies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ian Fraser ➤ Siobhan Fraser ➤ Ewan McHardy ➤ Rosie MacLeod ➤ Elsbeth Neil ➤ Jim Neil ➤ Megan Parker (Chair) ➤ Gareth Parkinson ▪ Apologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Craig Evans ➤ John MacKay (MAC rep) ➤ Donald Stuart (CC rep) ▪ MP welcomed attendees to the meeting.
2.	<p>Approval of minute of 29.08.24 & Review of actions from previous meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP asked for approval of the minute dated: 29.08.24 Minute Approved by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proposer: Jim Neil ➤ Seconder: Rosie MacLeod Review of Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RMacL confirmed that they had met with the MAC treasurer and established that we would be liable to the same charges from the bank. The MAC treasurer is transferring to online banking and once this is done the MCWG can also access online banking. DS to update at next meeting. ▪ EMcH said that an SSE Community Benefit fund was now open, but that our group would not be eligible to access this funding stream. He met with the Tesco community rep who suggested we apply for the blue token funding. RMacL confirmed that she had started the <p>DS will update the group at the next meeting about banking arrangements.</p> <p>EMcH to liaise with Tesco to organise a table</p>



		<p>application. The rep offered a fund-raising table to the group and it was agreed that EMcH would select a date around Easter for the group to do this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RMacL informed the group that the artist is presently preparing for an exhibition but after this he is willing to assist. ▪ [REDACTED] quote for the felling of the trees came to £400. It was agreed to hold off on this until the SMF WIAT application was completed. MP informed the group that she had managed to contact [REDACTED] of Highland Council and has requested a site visit. ▪ DS had spoken to the Gala Committee about the possibility of organising various joint activities in October and December. He informed the group that the Gala Committee plans were too far in advance to change anything now, but would be happy to discuss joint activities in the future. ▪ GP informed the group that the Scottish Forestry Community Fund had closed, but that he was working on the draft SMF WIAT application, which could be broadened to cover other costs. ▪ EMcH has spoken to the local resident about the registered access to the woodland and the resident is planning on investigating the situation himself. 	<p>in Tesco around Easter.</p> <p>RMacL to continue to liaise with the local artist.</p>
3.	<p>Address Tree Survey Findings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP informed the group that she is awaiting the permission for felling, the additional tree work and for dealing with the natural regeneration from Highland Council. The request also includes the pruning of any overhanging branches and shrubbery. ▪ There followed a discussion around the revoking of the TPO on the woodland. 	



		<p>However, it was agreed that this would only happen as a last resort.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GP explained the process of the SMF WIAT application. Once the work has been completed the money can then be claimed back. GP asked IF to prepare a map of the work which needs to be undertaken. Once this is done GP will update the application and MP will send it in. ▪ SF informed the group that a large branch had broken off and was hanging down and likely to fall in a storm. IF and JN agreed to meet to pull the branch down. 	<p>IF to prepare a map of the work which needs to be undertaken.</p> <p>IF and JN to meet to meet to pull down the low hanging branch.</p>
4.	Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP and members of the group thanked SF and IF for preparing the very detailed plan for the signage in the woodland. ▪ There followed a lengthy discussion on what types of signage were required and where the signs should be placed. ▪ It was felt that the Primary sign should be placed on the Dunglass side of the woodland near the entrance to the main path leading up to the Brahan gate. ▪ It was also felt that another main sign should be placed at the Birch Drive side of the woodland. ▪ An interpretative sign should be prepared for the Brahan gate and perhaps one which gives information about the memory trees. ▪ All other signs would be Waymarker posts. ▪ EN agreed to contact Brahan Estate to ask for the historical information held about the memory trees. ▪ GP, IF and SF agreed to a walk though of the woodland to establish where the signage should be placed, and what funding can be requested. 	<p>EN to contact Brahan Estate to ask for the historical information on the memory trees.</p> <p>GP, IF and SF to arrange a walk though of the woodland</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Once this has been done EN can contact the wood carver who offered assistance. ▪ EN asked if signage can be erected before the path and drainage work is undertaken. GP explained that the signs can be sited near to where the paths will be positioned. 	EN to contact the wood carver.
5.	Update on Quotes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN had tabled the only quote she had received back from the contractors. It was agreed by all present that the quote seemed quite excessive. ▪ MP agreed to send EN the contact details of other contractors who could be asked to quote for the work. ▪ MP also confirmed that the group will probably require planning permission from Highland Council for the SUDS devices. 	MP to send EN the contact details of contractors.
6.	AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP highlighted that she would be attending one of the days of the Community Woodland Association Conference and would feedback to the group. ▪ In light of the discussion about joint events with the Gala Committee it was suggested that a meeting should take place involving the various community groups. This would include having all groups use the Maryburgh Hub website. EN agreed to contact the owner of the website to discuss this idea. IF agreed to send EN the contact details for the Hub website owner. ▪ GP asked if a date could be set for the start of the woodland clear up days. It was agreed that a regular clear up would take place on the 1st Saturday of each month with the first event taking place on the 2nd of November. ▪ EN agreed to highlight the clean-up days in the next issue of the Maryburgh Roundabout. 	<p>EN to contact website owner and IF to send the contact details.</p> <p>EN to highlight the clean-up days in next issue of the Maryburgh Roundabout.</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It should be highlighted in the Roundabout the clean-up days would involve the removal of invasive species, pruning of overhanging branches and shrubs and the removal of the natural regeneration of Hemlock and Beech. All members of the community should be welcomed to attend these events. 	
7.	Date of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN to discuss with MP to arrange a suitable date for the next meeting. 	EN and MP to set meeting date.

