

Minutes of the RAW Committee held via Teams on Thursday 30th May 2024

Present; Andy Stott, Andy Tunnicliffe, Anna Griffin, Peter Dreghorn, Martin Lyall, Emma Coull and Nic Major

Apologies: Nick Chisholm, Richard Smith, Norma Fears, Gareth Pedley

1. Welcome

Peter welcomed all the attendees, Andy, Andy T and Peter were present at Lawrencefield, the rest attended via Teams

2. Previous Minutes

These were accepted, and Andy agreed to change status from draft and upload to the website.

Action: Andy

3. Actions from Previous minutes of Tuesday 12 December 2023

- a) Andy T to provide payment dates from Scottish Forestry for the FOCO admin. Andy apologised and agreed to do it asap.

Action: Andy T – COMPLETE

- b) Details of how the £2000 Foundation Scotland grant had been spent were provided by Andy T – *COMPLETE*

- c) Tree Office Post – Richard gave feedback on the JD – *COMPLETE*

- d) Norma's neighbour took some trees – *COMPLETE*

- e) Planting at Dark Skies is complete

- f) Martin provided spreadsheet – *COMPLETE*

- g) Andy to speak to a friend about contacts on M74 – *OUTSTANDING*

- h) Meeting arranged – *COMPLETE*

4. Treasurer Report

Need a new treasurer, all please to look around or have any ideas.

ACTION: All

Andy T reported that the account currently stands at £1475.25. We have £1124 left from the last £2k grant

5. Tree Nursery Update

Martin reported that most things apart from some willows to plant. Peter has ordered some rowan and silver birch seeds from Forest Start. Some have already been planted. Over 700+ acorns that were collected are doing well and have been successfully protected from mice. We are doing the same with hazel also a couple of woodland meadow wildflower seed trays planted and 100 beech trees from Gallows Hill, Holly saplings from The Hope and 25 Gallows Hill acorns from Suzanne Storm. Compost heaps will be built at the side of the netted tunnel.

Andy reported that signs have been erected, a padlock installed, and a first aid kit placed in the polytunnel to comply with our recent safety assessment and assist

Derek and Sue with their insurance.

Peter stated that he has had an offer of some funding from D&G Woodlands to help fund the nursery. It was agreed that if we get the funding then some of it should be given to Emma for her services. If this happens the McNab Lawrie will be along to have a chat with Emma. Martin mentioned that they needed more seed trays, Peter to get 10.

Action: Peter

6. Grant Applications

Peter reported that his application to the Holyrood Trust has been rejected, the funding from D&G Woodlands has also not been approved. Andy reported that he was waiting to hear about D&G funding. Peter is looking to apply to the Tweed Forum for funds around the new Tweed Footpath. Looks to fit their criteria.

7. Seed Collection

Peter reported that there are plenty of Elm seeds around at the moment.

Action: All

The next collection will be Willow, followed later in the year by bird-cherry.

8. D&G Woodlands Association

Peter reported that they have an Education Officer post filled and are advertising for an admin person. Nic is now one of the trustees of the new D&G Woodlands group.

9. Constitution Amendments

Andy stated that we need to amend the constitution to say that 2 officers are required for authorising payments also that the number of meetings should be reduced from 10 to 5. The changes were agreed, and Andy will update the constitution.

10. Membership Proposal

Peter proposed that we have membership options, held over to next meeting. Nic suggested we have a greater online presence. The Facebook group need to be more public.

11. FoCo Grants

Nic reported that Treesurv's workload was now diminishing at the end of the planting season, and they can now put more effort into the 3 schemes. These are Meikleholmside Cottage, Meikleholm Farm and Craigbeck where they are putting the grant and planning together.

Nic stated that the funding is difficult to get for smaller sites. Hightae had costs that were too high. There the landowner agreed to use the South of Scotland scheme over the next few years.

Nic mentioned that the funding for smaller sites is problematic. Andy suggested setting up a meeting with TreeSurv, us, D&G Woodland and Luke.

Action; Andy

12. Crosslaw Burn

This burn goes through Dark Skies Distillery and the owners have plans to develop the land around it. Luke Scot from Galloway Fisheries has got funding of £60k for scoping out 4 sites for re-meandering etc. A quarter of this one be spent on either re-wetting or re-meandering. The output will be a tender proposal for us to go out to look for a suitable contractor.

Anna reported that the FIRNS project has moved to the second phase. The name has changed. The project is to enable people and projects access to private finance.

Action - Anna to send the link

Luke had also asked about Castlemilk, Bodesbeck

13. Grey Mare's Tail

Martin stated that NTS had got funding to get the enclosures at the back of the reserve to preserve the downy willow. After the holiday season a helicopter will bring in materials and already the vegetation is recovering from the loss of sheep grazing.

Nature Scot are positive about riparian planting. Also the NT ecologist is also keen to encourage re-generation.

14. River Flies Training

There are around 6 people coming to River Fly Training at the Grey Mares site on Tuesday on 4th June which is being given by Kerry from BugLife.

15. D&G Representation

Peter reported that Nick Chisholm will be a representative of the D&G council.

16. AOB

It was suggested that we have short sharp meetings on particular topics to move things along.

Andy Stott

06 June 2024