

## Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland

### Directors Meeting

Held in the Aultbea Hall Upper Meeting Room on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014

#### MINUTES

PRESENT: John Rippin, Kevin Ginty, Tony Carpenter, Nick Murray, Alan Turnbull, Jan Barclay

APOLOGIES: Peter Jarosz

APPROVAL OF LAST MINUTES:

Proposed:- Tony Carpenter

Seconded:- Jan Barclay

#### MATTERS ARISING

Kevin brought up the deterioration of the car park sign, this was referred to AOB.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

In Peter's absence John reported that the current account balance was only slightly down on the previous amount this time last year, due to a small over run in the cost of the waterfall route construction.

#### SUMMER WOODLAND

Lodgepole pine self seeding problem will need to be dealt with. Andrew had suggested a squad be recruited for this. John raised the possibility of using Inverness College students, another possibility could be the chain saw team, together with recruited helpers to remove the debris.

It was decided to place an advert in the Gairloch & District Times offering the possibility for the public to take trees from designated spots. The final solution is to be decided after any response from the press notice.

Sponsor a tree has run into some problems with available space, and also the numbers are fading away. There are three unmarked trees available. It was agreed to suspend this facility while solutions were agreed, including planting a dozen trees or so in the Autumn and the use of a Dymo marker.

Dog Poo is becoming a problem again. New notices are suggested and, as a solution to the lack of hangers on the new biodegradable bags, Nick proposed that we use a soldering Iron to burn small holes throughout them which would also keep them together on the post.

## EVENTS

All this year's planned events have either been completed or are about to take place. Jan reminded us about the proposed Photo event's changed date, 5th becomes 6th Aug - this has been advertised, and updated on the website and on the WREN calendar.

John asked that we consider School holiday dates when planning next year. Jan asked for any new ideas, reminding us that all this year's events were successful.

## LAND MANAGER OPTIONS

The SFGS grant for the Waterfall path will be paid later this year. There will be no grants available from them next year.

## MEETING DATES

It was decided that the September directors meeting be held on 11th Sept, and the AGM on 25th September.

## AGM

The Presentation and Photo display was discussed, including the use of a wall screen and a rolling powerpoint. It was agreed to finalise the format at the next meeting.

## NEWSLETTER

Kevin has been sent a children's fairy story by a member, which he would include in an enhanced Newsletter.

The discussion then ranged on the Hard copy required by around 25% of members, and the electronic form used for most people. He is keen to get as many members as possible to receive the newsletter electronically via email, only sending hard copy to those existing members who do not have a computer. It was also suggested we should try to get a sponsor.

We discussed the possibility that the paper that we use could be standardised with the footer used on the news letter on all paper work and web literature.

It was agreed to limit the print edition of the newsletter to four pages due to the cost of printing, but to expand the email version as required. A new form will be sent to members to complete asking for email details, and members will be reminded that the electronic version is to be much enhanced.

Kevin suggested that more articles on other woodlands etc. be included and that members should be encouraged to submit copy, including photos and poems.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mike Smith - a suggestion by him to advise us on bridge building was considered, and declined, on the basis that we do not need his help at this point in time.

The car Park Interpretation notice which has deteriorated needs to be replaced. Kevin will get quotes for a new one similar to the ones on the trails, and investigate the opportunity to also update the detail.

Jan has had a request for a bench in the car park. After discussion, it was decided that for reasons of danger to reversing cars, and the proximity of the first trail side bench close to the notice board, it was not a viable idea.

Working parties will not start this year until after the AGM, in October.

## NEXT MEETING

The next directors' meeting will be on Thursday 11th September 2014, 7.30pm in the Aultbea Hall.

The AGM will be held on Thursday 25th September 2014.