

Friends of Glenan Wood

Notes from meeting on 8th March

Present:

Andrée, Robin, Niall, Eve, Ed, Robert.

Apologies:

Mark, Rhyddian, Katharine, Heather

1. Minutes:

The minutes of the February meeting were approved

2. Finance:

Niall said that Eric Ross was approved as an appropriate overviewer of the accounts, which saves us £750. He should be thanked and we should offer him something in recognition of his help. **ACTION NIALL**

The Climatechange grant would only pay out on items specified in the bid, which was for fruit trees, fencing and juicing equipment. Robin said he had asked for permission to pay £1,200 for the felling, and this was being considered. If Climatechange would not allow us to do this, there would be very little free funds, although we would be able to pay for more trees.

Rhyddian had asked if he might get chainsaw certification for felling, but the cost of the week's course was £1,000, and it was felt that while desirable this was not a priority at the moment, and there were other health and safety issues that were more urgent. Robert to have a discussion with Rhyddian. **ACTION ROBERT**

Andrée is working on a bid to the Nineveh Trust to go towards the Community building (max £5k grant) **ACTION ANDRÉE**

Robin will make a bid to the NFU for fruit cages. **ACTION ROBIN**

Eve is pursuing the manufacture of a steel honesty box at the car park entrance, and also checking if there could be funding for the noticeboard, (which Robin felt he and Niall could eventually build: Robin would produce a drawing of this.). **ACTION EVE & ROBIN.**

Niall was completing an application to PayPal to enable payments to be able to be made through the website. **ACTION NIALL.**

Crowdfunding was also discussed briefly, but not pursued.

Ed had proposed an OWL bid in conjunction with KCF, but this may be too late. It would involve taking primary age school children around both woods regarding nature education: if we were successful, the OWL group would get the funds to do this, but we may be too late. Ed to report back. **ACTION ED**

3. Forest Ranger

Rhyddian had been working on ringbarking, helped by Ben Mitchell and Ianna from the marina.

4. Orchard

Andrée had taken samples of the soil and tested it, which showed that it was very acidic..this was good for apples, but maybe not for other fruit. There was discussion about burning the brash..leaving it did not necessarily mean that it would compost down, but would decompose anaerobically, producing methane and would smell. Burning would produce potash and make the soil less acidic, while we were burning the logs anyhow. There were arguments for and against burning, but some felt strongly that it was not what we were about, and not what we wanted to do. The difficulty is that clearing it by hand may take a very long time.

It was eventually decided to continue clearing by hand, while leaving areas where birds were nesting. By September we would re-evaluate the situation, as we needed to clear the site by the end of November. **ACTION ALL**

The fencing contractor had completed the work, but there is an issue regarding the support of one corner post. It was agreed Robert would visit the site and see if the ground around it would not be able to support some back ties. **ACTION ROBERT**

(Post meeting Note: the contractors have agreed to insert two back ties.)

5. Footpaths

There was discussion regarding which paths were a priority: it was felt that a route to the abandoned village would be the most popular, but it was also felt that a path to the standards of Improving Public Access (IPA) would make it more public destroy the sense of isolation there. Maybe we could get funds for bits of a path to their requirements (eg a bridge), but otherwise keep the path to a more minimal standard, with more way marks and signposts.

It was also felt that a path connecting the ferry and start of the Cowal Way along the route of the power lines to the proposed community building and the continuation of the Cowal Way would be an attractive thing to do.

(I have a note that Jolyon Gritton might be contacted, but not who he is!)

6. Community Building and Shepherd's Huts

Robin had prepared and circulated drawings for the planning re-submission, which he would send off shortly. He pointed out that we did not have the funds to build all this with the "Boost It" loan, but that the building could be phased, constructing the toilets and camping kitchen only to begin with. He felt that it was prudent to get permission for what we may eventually want and manage to do. **ACTION ROBIN**

7. Date of next meeting

8.00pm on Tuesday 6th April **ACTION ANDRÉE**