

FCWT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting held at St Leonard's Church Portakabin
7.30pm on 25th March 2013



MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Item	Minute	Action
	<p>Present: : Graham Hilditch (chair), Eddie Tomkinson, Stuart Johnston, John Carson, Alan Smith, Claire Feaver, Wilson Metcalfe, Donald Wright, Gisela MacFarquhar (minutes) Members of the Woodside Park Residents' Association Apologies: none</p>	
	<p>Minutes of last meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2013 were presented and agreed as an accurate record, proposed by ET, seconded by WM.</p>	
	<p>The chairman welcomed the Board and members of the Woodside Park Residents' Association to the meeting. He thanked Stuart and Jane for having organised an on-site inspection of the Coffin Field and providing lunch thereafter. He also thanked Claire for producing the newsletter and other board members for distributing it. He said that 8 volunteers had come forward as a result of the newsletter to help with work at Sanquhar Woods. He proposed to alter the order of the meeting and to deal with the Residents' Association's issues first.</p>	
	<p>Agenda.</p>	
<p>1.</p>	<p>Woodside Park and Pond. Nicole Merrilees from the WPRA explained that they had received an autumn harvest pack of 400 saplings which could be planted as hedgerows or in clumps on the Coffin Field. They would like to organise the planting during April as a community project involving Applegrove Primary School and Wild Things. The Board agreed to provide some tree-planting expertise and will liaise with the WPRA to help with preparation of the ground, planting and protection of the saplings. AS will approach Wild Things who have experience in planting trees. Ian Suttie might also be able to help. The WPRA suggested that the area around the pond should be tidied up as it is inaccessible owing to overgrowth and dead wood. CF and AS said that the pond area should be left untouched and preserved as a diverse area where wildlife could thrive undisturbed. The WPRA asked if some of the pathways could be improved to allow disability access. The Board said that the volunteer group due to be set up shortly will look into this.</p>	<p>GH AS</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Green Burial Sites. DW presented a discussion paper outlining the history of and providing up-to-date information on the Green Burial Project. A copy of the Feasibility Study prepared by Chris Piper in April 2009 and amended in March 2012 had been made available to him. As this copy is incomplete a number of issues could not be resolved. It was suggested that a complete copy might be obtainable from LCF - the fund provider. The Board continues to be concerned about the possibility of substantial debt, the expectation of creating funds being viable, maintenance costs and the technical, commercial and operational viability. Questions were raised about how much demand there is for green burials, how the site would be managed, how much preparatory work would be required in the event of re-application, and what further</p>	

	<p>expenses the Trust would incur. Landfill money which has been received and already spent on path and access construction may have to be re-allocated retrospectively. AS said that the Trust's income would come from selling lairs and the general public appears to show an increased interest in green burials. CF expressed concern that a green burial site would change the use of the Woodland.</p> <p>DW has been informed that exploration pits dug in the past had revealed sand and gravel but that there is no documentation of these digs. SJ stated that, according to geological surveys, the area's subsoil consisted of sand and gravel below a thin layer of topsoil. SEPA recommendations indicate that this would be unsuitable for burials. Soil conditions would now need to be proved before an application could be approved. This was not the case at the time of the last application. ET proposed that soil conditions should be established by an independent chartered engineer before any further steps are taken. DW agreed to take the lead in organising this.</p>	DW
3.	<p>Benromach Pipeline.</p> <p>GH said that there will be an on-site meeting with representatives of Benromach Distillery next Thursday and a start in early May had been suggested. It was decided that this would be the wrong time of year due to environmental impact. It is generally accepted that work carried out in environmentally-sensitive areas has to be delayed to allow undisturbed breeding etc. In this case, early September would be less damaging to the environment. It is expected that the area will be re-instated to its original condition. Benromach Distillery should be asked to provide an environmental impact assessment. As a goodwill gesture it should be suggested that they help us upgrade nearby paths and provide an annual rental/contribution.</p>	GH
4.	<p>Operational Updates</p> <p>Muiry/Newforres Woods. DW said that the travellers are now occupying both car parks which makes both woods virtually out of bounds for walkers. ET expects that planning permission for the barriers should be approved by end of May. If the travellers have not left by then our options for removing them will have to be reconsidered.</p> <p>Sanquhar Woods. SJ said that Balloch Forestry School was unlikely to carry out project work at Sanquhar although one of the students might wish to produce a project report which could be used as a guide for future working parties. He reported that a member had recently noticed a tent near one of the ponds and he had left a contact number by the tent. He agreed to monitor the situation. CF said that wild camping is generally permitted for up to 3 nights.</p>	SJ
5.	<p>Correspondence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GH said that 8 volunteers had contacted him offering help with woodland maintenance. • GH said that Mike Kemp has approached him proposing a mountain bike event later in the year. GH will ask for more information. • GM received an offer of support from Vicky Flood for the Giants in the Wood events. AS will make contact with Vicky. • GM received information regarding Lyme's Disease from Henrietta Grant-Peterkin. CF will include a report on this in the next newsletter. • 	GH AS CF
6.	<p>AOB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ET distributed copies of an Inspection Regime for Freeride Bike Park and Trails and Risk Assessment which he had found amongst other documents. He suggested regular risk assessments should be carried out to cover our liability. • JC offered to contact Companies House to register the change of directors. ET to provide the access code. • WM reported that the setting up of the website should be finished by mid-April. He suggested that the newsletter should not be included in the website. 	JC ET

7.	Financial up-date. ET has produced a list of cost summaries of on-going projects to date from information he has received from former Board members. He received approval for a payment of £3750 from LCF on 14 th March for the construction of the height barriers at Muiry. Any outstanding accounts will need to be settled before the end of the financial year. There are currently £23,244.05 in the account.	
8.	Date of Next Meeting - 29th April 2013	