

**MINUTES of MEETING of DUCHESS WOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE COMMITTEE held via
SKYPE
on TUESDAY, 4 AUGUST 2020**

Present: Councillor Lorna Douglas (Chair)

Stuart Campbell, Committee Member, Friends of Duchess Wood
Martin Grafton, Secretary, Friends of Duchess Wood
Shona Barton, Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Audrey Martin, Projects and Regeneration Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Tom Murphy, Operations Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Kevin McIntosh, Assistant Operations Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Sean McCay, Land Agent, Luss Estates
Andrew Galloway, Helensburgh Advertiser

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made by all attendees.

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of:

Eileen Kay, Argyll and Bute Council
Matt Offord, Friends of Duchess Wood
David Lewin, Friends of Duchess Wood
Johann Urquhart, Lomond School

2. MINUTES

(a) Minute of the Previous Meeting of the Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee Held on Tuesday, 25 February 2020

The Minute of the previous meeting of Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee held on Tuesday, 25 February 2020 was approved as a correct record.

3. FRIENDS OF DUCHESS WOODS ACTIVITY UPDATE

Martin Grafton provided a verbal update on the activity of the Friends of Duchess Wood. Mr Grafton confirmed that a lot of the period since the last meeting had been impacted by the effects of Covid19 and lockdown. With the easing of lockdown restrictions, Mr Grafton advised that activities were beginning to resume in the woods. Volunteers had been doing work on new fencing and other minor maintenance tasks, the community payback team have also been assisting by cutting grass amongst other activities. Mr Grafton noted that since the last meeting of the Committee the Friends have been in discussion with Luss Estates around their future relationship and management of the Wood.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the content of the update.

4. LOMOND SCHOOL ACTIVITY UPDATE

There were no representatives from Lomond School available at the meeting to provide an update on their activities. It was noted that the School had been closed due to the Covid19 situation since March and would be re-opening to pupils soon, therefore it was unlikely that the school had conducted much activity within the Wood since the last meeting of the Committee. Stuart Campbell confirmed that the school have now been able to get access to the playing fields beyond the car park bridge.

Decision

The Committee noted that there were no representatives from Lomond School at the meeting to provide an update on activities.

Mr Campbell expressed concern that an e-mail received within the last few days indicated that works necessary to be carried out in few