

**MINUTES of MEETING of DUCHESS WOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE COMMITTEE held
in the LOMOND SCHOOL, STAFFORD STREET, HELENSBURGH
on TUESDAY, 22 AUGUST 2017**

Present: Councillor Lorna Douglas (Chair)

Attending: Johanna Urquhart – Principal, Lomond School
Alastair Macbeth – Secretary, Friends of Duchess Wood
Stewart Campbell – Chair, Friends of Duchess ~Wood
Shona Barton – Area Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Mhairi Gardiner, Development Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
Ailsa Cunningham, Technical Officer, Argyll and Bute Council

1. APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the table.

Apologies for absence were intimated from:-

Morevain Martin
Stuart McCracken

2. MINUTE

The Minute of the previous meeting which was held on 22 February 2017 was approved as a true record subject to an amendment at the item relating to the Friends of Duchess Wood report which should read “to note and endorse the report”.

3. FRIENDS OF DUCHESS WOOD REPORT

The Committee considered a report which provided an update and outlined the recent work undertaken by Friends of Duchess Wood (FODW).

Discussion followed with the issue of vandalism at the bridge being highlighted. Stewart Campbell advised that works to repair the bridge had now been completed. Robert Mackenzie had replaced the culvert which now provided a better crossing which is also suitable for vehicle use. The which

Stewart Campbell advised that this would be the last meeting which Alastair Macbeth would be in attendance as he was standing down as Secretary to the Friends of Duchess Wood. It was noted that Martin Grafton would be taking over as Secretary on 1st October 2017. Stewart also advised that David Lewyn would be taking over as interim Chair for a period of 3 months.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

1. To note and endorse the report, and
2. To note the changes to the Office Bearers for Friends of Duchess Wood.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, paid tribute to Alastair Macbeth and thanked him for his dedication to the Friends of Duchess Wood and the Local Nature Reserve Committee and wished him well for the future.

(Reference: Friends of Duchess Wood (FODW) by Stewart Campbell, Chair FODW, dated February 2017).

4. ENGAGEMENT WITH SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY

(a) Branching Out

The Committee considered a report provided by Sara McLean of Branching Out. The report provided a summary of the project and highlighted the success of this particular initiative in the Duchess Wood. Branching Out also indicated that they would be keen to continue consider

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contact with Morevain Martin to ascertain the date for the event.

The Area Committee Manager advised of a question received from Wendy Brownlie, Aa

