

DUCHESS WOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE COMMITTEE

15 August 2017

NOTICE OF MEETING

A meeting of the **DUCHESS WOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE COMMITTEE** will be held in the **LOMOND SCHOOL, STAFFORD STREET, HELENSBURGH** on **TUESDAY, 22 AUGUST 2017** at **10:00 AM**, which you

DUCHESS WOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE COMMITTEE

Councillor Lorna Douglas (Chair)

Contact: Shona Barton, Area Committee Manager - 01436657605

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

Present:

(Chair)
Councillor Aileen Morton

Attending:

Charlie Cairns – Lower Clyde Green Space
Johanna Urquhart – Principal, Lomond School
Alastair Macbeth – Secretary, Friends of Duchess Wood
David Lewin – Trustee, Friends of Duchess Wood
Iain Wilkinson, Luss Estates
Shona Barton – Area Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Mhairi Gardiner, Development Manager, Argyll and Bute Council

Ailsa Cunningham, Technical Officer, Argyll and Bute Council

MINUTE

The Minute of the previous meeting which was held on 22 November 9 39.99000549

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

1. To note the report; and
2. That an on-site meeting would be arranged between Argyll and Bute Council engineers, representative from Luss Estates and maintenance representative from Lomond School to determine the short-term safety issues regarding the bridge; and
3. That a report which outlined the long-term remedial action for the bridge would come to the May meeting of the Duchess Wood Committee.
4. That Theresa McLetchie would forward on an application for the Provost Fund to Stewart Campbell.

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

4. ENGAGEMENT WITH SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY

(a) Branching Out Proposal

The Chair advised the Committee that the Friends of Duchess Wood (FODW) had been approached by Sara MacLean, organiser of 'Branching Out' enquiring on the feasibility of running various activities in the Wood.

Branching Out were sponsored by the Forestry Commission and it was highlighted that ~~On~~ ET Q6.62.5489997968t ET Q6.62.5489997968t ET Q6.

5. LOWER CLYDE GREENSPACE

The Committee gave consideration to a report which provided an update on The working relationship between Argyll and Bute Council and Lower Clyde Greenspace in respect to Duchess Wood.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note the report.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, dated 22 February 2017, submitted).

WIAT FUNDING APPLICATION - UPDATE

Charlie Cairns updated the Committee on the progress of the Woodlands In and Around Towns (WIAT) application. He advised that the draft was at the first stage and would be given further consideration at the WIAT sub-group meeting on 13 March. After the draft had been agreed, it would be forwarded to the Forestry Commission by the end of March 2017.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

1. To note the progress of the WIAT application; and
2. That the sub-group would meet to formalise the WIAT application on 13 March with Mhairi Gardiner in attendance; and
3. That the WIAT application would be submitted to the Forestry Commission by the end of March 2017; and
4. That Iain Wilkinson, Luss Estates would provide a letter of comfort to accompany the WIAT application to the Forestry Commission..

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL MAINTENANCE

(ACT).

The Chair agreed to take these issues away and would provide an update to FODW.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee meeting was agreed for Tuesday, 16 May 2017 in the Seabank Room, Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.

The Area Committee Manager drew attention to the Governance issue regarding the appointment of the Chair of the Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee. She confirmed that this would not be agreed until the Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee scheduled to be held in June 2017.

Decision:

The Committee agreed:-

1. To proceed with the Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee meeting on 16 May 2017; and
2. That another member of the Committee would chair the meeting.

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

**Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve
Committee**

**DEVELOPMENT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES**

22nd August 2017

Duchess Wood WIAT Application

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the application to the Forestry Commission Woods In and Around Town Urban Woodland Management Plan fund.
- 1.2 The application was submitted on 31-May-2017 and approved on 6-July-2017. The funding contract is currently being processed.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are invited to note the contents of this report.

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNC

Woodland Management' fund was approved on 6-July-2017. The Forestry Grant Scheme Contract is in the process of being issued to confirm the value of and release the grant payment.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Policy Duchess Wood is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) under the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and is also designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

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ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL**Duchess Wood Committee****DEVELOPMENT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES****22nd August 2017**

Routine Maintenance

1.0 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The tree pruning at Rhu Road Higher, the works will be carried out over coming winter.
- 1.2 Litter bins have been getting emptied as normal over the last period. Knotweed, first treatment was carried out end May the second treatment will be carried out in start September.
- 1.3 The tree work at Strathclyde garages has been completed.
- 1.4 Bridge repair meeting took place on 17th August 2017 verbal report will be given at the committee meeting.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Strathclyde Court Garages, works were completed in March.
- 2.2 Trees at Rhu Road Higher, this work has had to be carried over into this winter as the lighting tower was not available.
- 2.3 Strathclyde Court has requested that the overhanging trees down the Duchess Woods boundary are pruned back. This will be carried out this winter.

3.0 DETAILS

- 3.1 Litter Bins were emptied as normal over the summer period and will continue to be emptied over the next three months.
- 3.2 Knotweed should be treated for the second time this year over next two weeks. Areas include Car Park area, entrance at Rhu Road Higher, rear Duchess Park and top of playing field.
- 3.3 Bridge repair will require site meeting with Luss Estates as to how repair goes forward. As a safety issue there may be a requirement to close the bridge of too vehicle traffic until repair has been carried out as per report from bridge engineer.

