

**MINUTES of MEETING of DUCHESS WOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE COMMITTEE held
in the THE HELENSBURGH AND LOMOND CIVIC CENTRE, HELENSBURGH
on TUESDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2017**

Present: Councillor Lorna Douglas (Chair)
Alastair Macbeth, Secretary, Friends of Duchess Wood
David Lewin, Chair, Friends of Duchess Wood
Morevain Martin, Third Sector Interface
Mhairi Gardiner, Development Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
Stuart McCracken, Amenity Performance Manager, Argyll and Bute Council
Ailsa Cunningham, Technical Officer, Argyll and Bute Council
Shona Barton – Area Committee Manager, Argyll and Bute Council

1. APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were intimated from:-

Martin Grafton

2. MINUTE

The Minute of the previous meeting which was held on 22 August 2017 was approved as a true record subject to amendments at Item 3.

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 Alastair Macbeth and David Lewin highlighting the appreciation of the FODW for the Civic Reception provided by the Provost to celebrate 10 years of the Group. It was noted that the AGM for the FODW would be held on 17th January 2018 and all were welcome to attend. David also provided the Committee with an update on the work carried out by the Community Payback teams in the Wood and welcomed the contact being re-established with the local supervisor in Helensburgh.

Decision

The Committee agreed to note in

6. ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL MAINTENANCE UPDATE

The Committee gave consideration to a verbal report from the Amenity Performance Manager.

The following was noted:-

General maintenance of knotweed, litter bins etc. was up to date

Work would be carried out on Rhu Road Higher over the Winter

A plan of work has been agreed with the residents for work on the Strathclyde Court trees and this will be carried out in early 2018

Work has been carried out on the Victorian Bridge area, with a temporary cover now in place to stop traffic from going over the edge

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the update.

(Reference: Verbal report by Amenity Performance Manager dated 22 February 2017, tabled).

7. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

(a) Repairs to the bridge above the Duchess Wood car park

Discussion took place around the works that have been carried out on the bridge, with it being highlighted that although remedial work had made the bridge safe there was a possibility of further deterioration. The Amenity Performance Manager advised that further works would likely be required in future, and he was currently trying to establish where responsibility for these repairs would fall. Concern was also raised that the bridge could be listed and this may prove to be a further obstacle.

As part of the discussion, the Committee raised the issue of the current Management Agreement, whether this should be a lease agreement and looking forward to the renewal of the agreement with Luss Estates.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

1. To note the current situation surrounding the bridge;
2. That Councillor Douglas would confirm the status of the bridge in terms of any listing;
3. That the Chair and the Amenity Performance Manager would liaise to arrange a meeting with Luss Estates to discuss the Management Agreement and future arrangements.

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