

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

Present:

(Chair)
Councillor Lorna Douglas

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

The proposed housing development by Persimmon Homes was also highlighted, with it being noted that there were some concerns over the provision of a wildlife corridor and in particular the depth of the corridor.

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

(b) **Dog Event - 2017**

The Committee discussed the possible dog event scheduled to take place in September 2017.

It was noted that the dog trainer was confirmed for the event.

Decision:

The Committee agreed that the Area Committee Manager would make contact with Morevain Martin O Td (2017.)r

Mhairi Gardner updated the Committee on the progress of the Woodlands In Around Town funding application. It was noted that the 1st stage application had been approved and the contract was now with Legal Services for approval. The management plan will then be submitted to the Forestry Commission. The sum of £1299.75 would be coming to the Council so support the preparation of the Management Plan.

In regard to the Management Agreement with Luss Estates, it was noted that the offer of a letter of comfort has been made if this is required by the Forestry Commission.

Decision

The Committee agreed:-

1. To note the progress of the WIAT application; and
2. That the sub-group would continue to meet to progress the application.

6. ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL MAINTENANCE UPDATE

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

The Technical Officer provided an update on the work which is planned and ongoing in the Wood.

Discussion took place on the repairs at the Victorian Bridge. It was noted that the bridge had now been made safe and that the metal gate would be moved to the other side of the bridge to prevent unauthorised vehicle access. Work had also been undertaken to remove debris from the burn.

The Committee agreed:-

1. to note the report;
2. that Stuart McCracken would be asked to provide further information on the work at Strathclyde Court Garages, and
3. that a site meeting would be arranged with Stuart McCracken, Friends of Duchess Wood and the Strathclyde Court residents.

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

7. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

The Chair opened the meeting for Any Other Business and the following issues were raised:-

Community Orienteering

Johanna Urquhart advised that Lomond School hoped to run their community orienteering project in the Spring and asked if the Committee were happy for this to continue. Stewart Campbell asked if information on the orienteering can be provided to the Friends for permanent display in the Wood.

Decision

The Committee agreed to endorse the use of the wood for the community orienteering project.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Duchess Wood Local Nature Reserve Committee meeting was agreed for Tuesday, 21 November 2017 in the Seabank Room, Helensburgh and Lomond Civic Centre.