

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

**Present:**

(Chair)  
Councillor Lorna Douglas

**Attending:**

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





## **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.

### **(b) Persimmon Development**

Alastair Macbeth provided the Committee with an update on the proposed Persimmon Development at the former Ardencaple garden centre. He noted that FODW had submitted 2 objections in relation to the wildlife corridor and the vagueness of the design for the whindust path.

#### **Decision**

The Committee noted the progress made and that there would be a Planning Hearing on the application on 19 December 2017 in the Victoria Halls, Helensburgh.

### **(c) Grass Cutting – Pony Field**

David Lewin advised that FODW were struggling to maintain the pony field due to the difficulties with dog fouling in that area causing issues with getting the grass cut. It was noted that FODW would ensure that a suitable area of the field was made available for the dog event in March 2018.

#### **Decision**

The Committee noted the

(d) Byelaws for dog walkers

The Committee discussed the issue of commercial dog walkers and the suggestion of putting in place a byelaw to regulate the number of dogs which and individual could be in control of at any one time.

**Decision Committee**