

**MINUTES of MEETING of DUCHESS WOOD LOCAL NATURE RESERVE COMMITTEE held
in the SEABANK ROOM, HELENSBURGH & LOMOND CIVIC CENTRE
on TUESDAY, 22 MAY 2018**

Present: Councillor Lorna Douglas (Chair)

Attending: Shona Barton, Area Committee Manager, Argyll & Bute Council
Melissa Stewart, Area Governance Officer, Argyll & Bute Council
Mhairi Gardiner, Development Officer, Argyll & Bute Council
Jean Senior, Argyll TSI
Stewart Campbell, Chair of FODW
David Lewin, FODW
Sara McLean, Argyll and the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust

1. APOLOGIES

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

Apologies for absence were intimated from:-

Stuart McCracken, Amenity Performance Manager, Argyll & Bute Council
Ailsa Cunningham, Technical Officer, Argyll & Bute Council
Johann Urquart, Principal of Lomond School
Sean McCay, Land Agent, Luss Estates
Morevain Martin, Third Sector Interface

2. MINUTE

The Minute of the previous meeting which was held on 20th February 2018 was approved as a correct record.

Arising from item 7 (c) Grass Cutting Pony Field, it was noted that there was no response as yet from Mr McCay. It was noted that Stewart Campbell would chase this up directly.

3. FRIENDS OF DUCHESS WOOD REPORT

The Committee considered a report which provided an update from Friends of Duchess Wood (FODW).

Stewart Campbell spoke to the report advising that it had been a quiet Winter due to laying snow but despite this some maintenance work had been completed and the Community Payback Team had undertaken the refurbishment of park benches, for which FODW recorded their thanks to Colin Ray.

In addition, Stewart spoke about bridge and decking repairs, bat detection with the Explorer Scouts on 25th June 2018, semi guided walks that were being planned and the desire to record footfall into the woods.

Decision

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

(Ref: Friends of Duchess Wood (FODW) by Martin Grafton, Secretary - FODW, dated 8th May 2018).

6. DUCHESS WOOD WIAT APPLICATION

Mhairi Gardner updated the Committee on the progress of the Woodlands In Around Town funding application which had been approved on 2nd May 2018 and responded to questions from the Committee about timescale and implications that the sale of timber may have on the funding.

Decision

The Committee noted the success of the application and requested that Mhairi seek to establish a timescale for release of the funding from the Forestry Commission and also

that the Area Committee Manager would raise this with Wendy Brownlie and Louise Connor, having noted that Ann Paterson was not aware of this.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 21st August 2018, at 10am, in the Lomond School, Helensburgh.