

Meeting Minutes

Company	Dunain Community Woodland
Location/Venue:	Charleston Community Complex
Attendees:	Alastair Cunningham (AC), George Hawco (GH), Ron Lyon (RL), John Cheadle (JC), Brenda Cheadle (BC), Noreen McLeod (NM), Sofie Lasota (SL), Sonia Rose (SR), Noel McLaughlin (NM) John Levens (JL)
Date/Time:	28 th November 2006/ 19:00hrs
Apologies:	Jennifer Laws, Phylis Pieraccini
Minuted by:	Email address: dunain@noelmclaughlin.co.uk

Minutes/Report Details:

Previous Minutes:

1. AC started with the tree survey report. Report was circulated and noted that the annual fee for on-going survey is £400.
2. Communications with the SNH for discussion in agenda.
6. Survey amended by NM. Survey weekend faltered somewhat. AC suggested that members carry out surveys in their own time.
7. No response to date.
8. Thanks to RL for £350.
9. AC sent letters to community councils and prepared to meet with them.

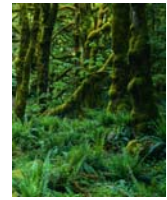
Agenda Items

Survey Research Proposals

A mentoring service is available. Access to funds could aid development of the survey, photographs and web development. RL questioned DCW capacity to undertake the research work. AC confirmed that we have already signed up to the processes and work is already underway. These include the four components:

- Obtain information from the public at large. This is being done through Greenspace Inverness.
- DCW User Survey. Sample around 50-60 users is within our capacity.
- Canvassing specific interest groups.
- Canvassing general clubs & society.

Group agreed to issue a questionnaire to members with the next newsletter. SR, GH and AC agreed to coordinate the project.



Community Woodland Association AGM.

JL intimated that this was a busy conference and groups were envious of our woodland with its unique features. There was a lot of detailed information some of which was retrieved in the form of handouts and booklet, leaflets etc. DCW has the opportunity to invite Amanda Calvert from the CWA Arts & Culture section. Amanda suggested a walk through our forest to make suggestions regarding hosting A&C in future. Given the Highland 2007: the year Scotland celebrates Highland Culture (www.highland2007.com) the group agreed to utilise Amanda's expertise and invite her early 2007. Tourism and astronomy had strong links in the Highlands and DCW should be mindful when considering A&C and educational plans. NM enquired about storage for documentation received and access to our library. SR will enquire about using SNH facilities in order to establish a library. Overall the group felt that the visit was worthwhile and thanks were expressed to SR and JL for attending.

Great Glen Way (GGW) conference report

JC reported that the GGW was funded by SNH & Highland Council and in year four visitor numbers (accessing longer sections of the path) were down. This trend may be down due to the early influx of 'baggers'. Usage of the larger sections are captured by using counters. JC & AC to meet with GGW regarding DCW.

SNH funding possibilities

AC explained DCW is on the list of targets for SNH funding. Discussion followed regarding benefits gained from having a Project Officer in post (something that may become a reality with funding). The group must consider priorities from the feasibility study prior to the next meeting which will include discussion with SNH.

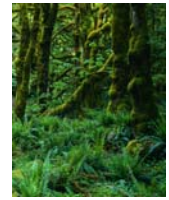
DCW office and store accommodation

AC & JC had viewed accommodation (two wooden sheds and a portacabin). The portacabin appears the more practical option. SR had enquired about the visual impact of the portacabin at the duck pond. AC confirmed that the accommodation would be clad in timber to appear less conspicuous. JC to look into availability of the portacabin, he also advised the meeting that transportation of the portacabin could be arranged at no cost.

Tree surgery report

AC informed group of the overall cost of the works required within the report (£4k) and this cost will be met by Robertsons.

BTCV proposal for a green gym



AC informed group that he had met with Catherine Christie of BTCV who had obtained funding to establish a green gym in the Inverness area. She considered DCW was ideal for the task and asked if DCW would be interested. The committee agreed that this would be a good opportunity and should proceed. A tentative date of 11th January was set for the start of the programme, details to follow.

Web site development.

NM covered statistics from period 10-Nov to 28-Nov. It is clear that the site needs much attention in order to attract greater public interest. NM agreed to coordinate the development. Initial improvement could include a calendar of events and record of minutes. How information would be sent to NM was discussed and the group requested some training. NM to assess training needs and training course. Venue and hardware (Laptop & projection) to be arranged.

Work days/ Clearing the chambered cairn area

JC reported the clearing of an area around the chambered cairn. Whilst investigating the history of the area it was discovered that this area is a historic monument. This status protects the area. This means that permission must be sought to fell trees in the area and below ground work is prohibited. An area Historic Scotland requested that 22meters from the centre of the cairn be cleared and payment in-turn to maintain the area could be agreed.

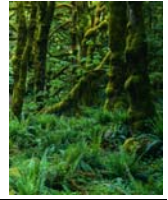
Mountain bike track enquiry

RL reported enquiries from members of the public regarding mountain bike access/development to DCW. AC had also received enquiries from Mike Hutton (Highlands Mountain Bike Association). Discussion surrounding the benefits from introducing tracks were explored. GH expressed caution regarding the allocation of space and the incompatibility between mountain biking and other pursuits, e.g. walking. However it was agreed that the initiative should be supported and that the mountain bikers should be encouraged to take their idea forward.

Date of next meeting 5th December 2006, 18:30 at the Charleston Community Complex.



Dunain Community Woodland



Follow-Up/Action & Tasks (Copy of open tasks taken forward onto next Meeting Agenda):

Date of Issue	Task	Assigned To:	Due Date	Closed Y/N
28.11.06	Newsletter (with survey attached) when the woodland is acquired	WG	01-Feb.07	
28.11.06	Invite Amanda Culver to DCW regarding Arts & Crafts	SR	31-Dec-06	
28.11.06	Investigate using SNH facilities in order to establish a library.	SR	31-Dec-06	
28.11.06	Consider priorities from the feasibility study	ALL	05-Dec-06	
28.11.06	Arrange for portacabin to be set on-site	JC	01-Feb-07	
28.11.06	Assess training needs and documentation.	NM	01-Jan-07	
Date Next Meeting	Venue			Scheduled Time
5 th December	Charleston Community Centre			18:30