

Maryburgh Community Woodland Group

Tuesday 2nd April 2024 @ 7.00pm

Maryburgh Amenities Centre

	MINUTE of meeting.		ACTION:
1.	<p>Welcomes and Apologies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ian Fraser ➤ Siobhan Fraser ➤ Ewan McHardy ➤ Elsbeth Neil ➤ Jim Neil ➤ Megan Parker (Chair) ➤ Donald Stuart (CC rep) ▪ Apologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Craig Evans ➤ John MacKay (MAC rep) ➤ Rosie MacLeod ▪ Men Shed Guests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Andy Barnett ➤ Ian Tolmie ▪ MP welcomed attendees to the meeting. 	
2.	<p>Approval of minute of 29.02.24 & Review of actions from previous meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP asked for approval of the minute dated: 29.02.24 Minute Approved by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proposer: Donald Stuart ➤ Seconder: Jim Neil Review of Actions: ▪ EN invited Councillor Maclean along to the meeting but unfortunately, she was unable to attend. ▪ RMacL had informed the meeting by email that she was still not on the bank account and that Diana said that the forms had to be completed in person and therefore a meeting had to be arranged. DS said that he would make contact with Diana and the Chair of MAC to push this issue on. ▪ CE will continue to try to locate where the water pipes cut through the woodland. 	<p>EN to update Cllr. Maclean on new meeting date.</p> <p>DS to make contact with Diana and the Chair of MAC to resolve the bank account issue.</p> <p>DS to contact local gentleman to help with locating the water</p>

		<p>Discussion followed with AB who gave a named contact who may be able to assist. DS agreed to contact this gentleman to ask for assistance with this matter. IF will also assist with this matter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EMcH informed the group that he had attended the consultation meeting about the new power lines. Although the line is not directly affecting Maryburgh, as the power line is passing through most of the northern area the community benefit may be administered with 50% being applied to local communities directly affected but a possible 50% being assigned to others in the north. EMcH stated that he is now on their mailing list and will follow this up. ▪ EMcH has been investigating the possible installation of Electric Charging points in the proposed parking bays in Birch Drive. He informed the group that it would take approx. 5 years to pay back installation costs, but this would involve 8 to 9 charges per day. The estimated cost for installation would be in the region of £20,000. Planning would also have to be sought and the process seems more complex than first thought. EMcH will continue to investigate. ▪ IF informed the group that if disabled bays were installed, only Blue Badge holders could use the parking bays. Perhaps it would be best to start out with undesignated parking bays and monitor the situation. ▪ RMacL had emailed to say she had found a local artist to do the drawing of the woodland map. RMacL can update the group at the next meeting. 	<p>pipes. DS, CE and IF will work on this together.</p> <p>EMcH to continue to investigate the Community Benefit funding sources.</p> <p>EMcH will continue to investigate the Electric Charging points.</p> <p>RMacL to update the group about the artist at the next meeting.</p>
3.	Maryburgh Men's Shed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AB informed the group that the Men's Shed programme in Scotland originated around 10 years ago. The ethos of the programme is to create opportunities for men of all ages to converse, socialise and interact through the medium of practical skills and community projects in a safe and comfortable environment. 	

- The Maryburgh Men's Shed took receipt of the old school building via asset transfer from Highland Council. With increased funding there have been building improvements including new signage and the fitting of new windows. There are three rooms involving a working area, a social area and a separate room where a local hairdresser will be based and where the Maryburgh Matters group will be running.
- **MP** said that both groups are ideally situated to develop joint working opportunities for the benefit of the Community.
- The Clean-up Day on Saturday 27th of April will be an ideal opportunity for this joint working just as the Men's Shed members assisted on the last Clean-up Day.
- **MP** highlighted that the group would also be planting replacement trees on that day and asked if there would be the possibility of making stakes for the new trees. **AB** said that if a sample stake is dropped off at the Men's Shed, they would try and make some stakes for the event.
- **IT** asked about the previously discussed training on the use of chain saws. **MP** agreed that this could be investigated further, but that the MAC insurance would also have to be considered.
- **MP** intimated that the group would be guided by the main aims of the woodland and to keep things as natural as possible, but there will be opportunities to install signage and seating, which would be a possible opportunity for joint working with the Men's Shed. **EN** also highlighted that with the changing climate and CWA recommended fire precautions, perhaps fire beaters would have to be made in the future.
- **EN** asked if there would be a possibility for all the community groups to update information onto the Maryburgh Hub website to allow members of the community to have one source to access information, instead of having to go through various Facebook pages. **IF** and **SF** highlighted that this was the original aim of the

MP to drop example stake at Men's Shed.

MP to investigate possible chain saw training.

EN to keep the topic of the Hub Website on the agenda for the next meeting.

		<p>Maryburgh Hub website, but that the Woodland Community Group were the only group uploading information onto the Hub. MP suggested getting all the community groups together to discuss this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AB & IT agreed that the Men's Shed would be happy to be involved in these discussions. ▪ At this point of the meeting AB & IT left the meeting. 	
4.	Spring Clean-up & Replanting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN highlighted that the date for the clean-up and replanting was Saturday 27th of April. ▪ There followed a discussion about siting a permanent bin in the Woodland to collect general rubbish including dog waste bags. IF & SF agreed that the bin could be positioned next to their fence at Birch Drive. EN agreed to contact the Council. ▪ All present agreed to a 10am start on the 27th. MP asked that members turn up with spades and large hammers to hammer the stakes in. 	<p>EN to contact the Council to request a pick-up of the rubbish bags.</p> <p>EN to contact the Council to ask for a woodland rubbish bin.</p> <p>Group members to turn up to Clean-up Day with Spades and Hammers</p>
5.	Fly Tipping Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There followed a discussion on how to deal with the continued dumping of garden waste, after one of the Woodland Group members observed a member of the community dumping his garden waste along the Dunglass side of the Woodland. ▪ MP suggested contacting SEPA to enquire what the correct procedures the Group should follow. ▪ IF agreed to write an article and warning and place it on Facebook and on the website. ▪ SF suggested placing temporary warning signs in the Woodland highlighting that there should be no fly-tipping and no dumping of garden waste. It was suggested that the signs that CE made about the felling were more substantial than the laminated signs and that CE could be asked to make the temporary signs. EN agreed to contact CE. 	<p>MP to contact SEPA to enquire about the fly-tipping procedures.</p> <p>IF to write an article and warning for the Facebook page and the website about fly-tipping.</p> <p>EN to contact CE to make warning signs for the Woodland.</p>

6.	Woodland Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The draft Plan is up on the website for community consultation until the 13th of April. So far, there has only been two contacts made about the plan; one very positive comment and another from a member of the community who asked for a copy of the full plan. EN sent the gentleman the full draft plan. ▪ MP stated that as there is no planned felling, the plan can go straight to the Woodland Officer at Scottish Forestry for approval after the 13th of April. 	
7.	Woodland Logo Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN said that the competition was now live and with the help of [REDACTED] of Dynam, leaflets about the competition had been printed and had gone into Ben Wyvis Primary School for all P4, 5, 6 & 7 pupils who live in the Maryburgh area. ▪ The competition closes on Friday the 19th of April with the winner being notified on the 6th of May. EN said she would arrange a time for all group members to be involved in the judging of the competition. 	EN to arrange a time for all group members to be involved in the judging of the competition.
8.	Banking Arrangements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DS will continue to work on finalising the account arrangements with the MAC treasurer. 	DS to make contact with Diana and the Chair of MAC to resolve the bank account issue.
9.	AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There was no other competent business to be discussed. 	
10.	Date of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN confirmed that the next meeting would be arranged for the 2nd of May. 	EN to contact Steph to book the hall.