

**Strathnairn Community Woodland Group
General Meeting
11th February 2008**

Present: John Elam, Farquhar Forbes;; Donald Longden; Davy Thompson

Members of public: Peter Christie

Apologies: Myles Evans, Bob Kass, Marion MacDonald

1. Previous minutes 14 Feb 08

- Proposed: J Elam, 2nd: D Thompson

2. Matters Arising

- Deer control – review in summer once tree damage quantified.
- £465 grant received for 5 years to reduce, not eradicate, deer.

3. Events

- Dark Skies
 - Fri 22 Feb: 13:30 – 15:30 educators workshop & 18:30 – 20:00
 - Sat 23 Feb: 13:00 – 16:00 educators workshop & 18:30 – 20:00
 - Sat – various activities, School + cabin + Hall
 - Inverness Astronomical Society attending – P Christie
 - SCW received £1762.50 from SCBF to pay for Dark Skies charge
 - Collection bucket for SCW – P Christie see M MacDonald
- 15 March: Dawn Walk – Milton - Katy Martin HC Ranger
- 19 Apr: Mosses/Lichens – James Fenton
- 24 May : Botany - Milton
- 16 July : Treasure Hunt – School - Katy Martin HC Ranger
- 13 Sep: Cinema under the stars – School - Katy Martin HC Ranger
- 4 Oct: Fun Day - Katy Martin HC Ranger

4. Farr School Access

D Thompson described:

- Proposal by HC at Farr School Board meeting to use School Wood car park for parents drop off. D Thompson + D Longden invited to attend school Board meeting.
- HC have 'funding' available.
- Details to be established, but will require new access point ~40m nearer Croft Croy and new road in wood to existing car park.
- Issues identified:
 - Will it be used if weather is bad? Not used at present, although available.
 - New access should benefit SCW also.
 - Needs to be suitable for timber haulage access.
 - Safety conflict between timber haulage and school drop off.
 - Retain existing access, but locked off?
 - SCW involved as stakeholder, but not project managing.
 - Preliminary stage only at present – detailed requirements not specified yet.
 - Beneficial to consult parents now if they would actually use proposed feature.
- SCW await next school led project meeting.

5. Finance

After Dark Skies paid, see No. 3, remaining bank balance £9,856.38

6. Forest Management Plan Review

- Read existing management plan document for reference. DT emailed out. – ALL
- Needs updating based on our experience gained.
- Review IM Forestry cash flow spreadsheet next mtg. – ALL
- Admin., SCBF income not shown on existing.

- Invite Keir Smith, FC Scotland Woodland Officer, to next mtg – DL
 - Discuss path maint. plan
 - Discuss new Rural Development Contract grants available.

7. Warden

- DLongden: Milton – 6 dead trees beside paths felled. 2 more identified, incl. 1 at car park. To be felled. Safety risk despite ecological value.
- Peter Scott and Peter Lawton helping to regularly monitor Milton and School.
- Wardens: School – B Kass ; Milton - F Forbes

8. BLF

- Pam Noble, BLF Case Officer, follow up meeting held 30 Jan.
- Amendments to Company Articles now acceptable to BLF.
- Match funding applications to be lodged with SNH, BLF and SCBF.
- J Elam to approach more listed potential match funders – JE
- Marion MacDonald being consulted if further additions needed – DT

9. Membership

SCW welcomes new members now joined:

1. Douglas Laidlaw
2. Peter Lawton
3. Caroline & Donald Smith

10. Volunteer Working

09:30 am Sat 16 Feb: cabin roof make good – School wood cabin

11. AOCB

Next meeting 10 Mar 2008, 7:30pm, Farr Hall

SCWP Action Log					
No	Date	Issue	Action	Responsible	When
2	12/11/07	Info panels	Ideas to be developed	J Elam B Kass	10/12
4			Manual to be sent to BK	D Thompson	Asap
7		Maps	Maps to be provided to BK	C Perkins	soonest
8			Maps to be sent to Janet Scott	C Perkins	soonest
9		2008 Events	Events to be booked with Marion	D Thompson	
10			Other ideas please to Davy	All	
12		Cabin	Treatment to prevent weathering to be considered	P Christie	summer
13			Remove wood from underneath	Volnteer wrk	soonest
14			Replace wood ramp with earthen one	BLF application	
15		School Wd	Reset marker posts	Volnteer wrk	
22	11/02/08	Website	Website owner needed	Any ?	
		Dark Sky	SCW collection bucket? Ask MM	P Christie	Before 22/02
23		Fire beaters	Storage rack School car park	Volunteer wk	
24			5 more beaters - Milton	D Longden	March
25		Cabin	Roof made good	Volnteer wrk	09:30 am Sat 16 Feb
26		BLF	Contact new match funders	J Elam	
27			Ask MM if any additions?	D Thompson	
28		Tree safety	2 dead trees to be felled - Milton	D Longden	By next mtg.
29		Forest Plan	Invite Keir Smith to next mtg.	D Longden	ASAP
30			Review original IMF cost sheet	ALL	By next mtg.

Donald Longden, 14 Feb 2008