

# Monimail Woodland Group

## Minutes

Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> March 2010

Present:

Jim Rotherham, Cathy Bache, Paula Millwood, Louise Barron, Neil Stoddart

Apologies:

George Mossman, Dave Hamilton

### 1 Management plan

We had two students on placement with CWA undertake a management plan last week. Louise & Neil met with them & Andrew from CWA to discuss our ideas and walk the woods. They put in about 2.5 days in the woods and will now write up the report.

We put them up at a local B&B and took them out for a meal on the last day, as thanks for their work. We have money in the A4A budget for the plan and felt this was an appropriate use of the funds since they are producing the plan for free.

### 2 Awards for All money

Out of the initial award of £10K we still have around £6K. We have to spend the money by May, there is a possibility of getting an extension. So we have focused on a plan to spend the grant on appropriate purchases.

### 3 Consultation

It was decided that we need to produce a community consultation in order to further engage the community, in order to make them more aware of the advantages of community ownership and to get them interested in using the woodland.

We plan to conduct a short survey followed by a participation workshop in the village hall. We reckoned the work would be about 5 days in all, and this would include talking with other local organisations; Hall committee, Community Council, NHTT, Letham school, Secret Garden, etc.

It was decided to ask a local consultant for a quote on the cost of running such a consultation. **Cathy Action, talk with Crispin Hayes**

We talked about future ownership and felt that a local Development Trust would be the appropriate vehicle, although we do not rule out the management of the wood to fall under the umbrella of the NHTT.

### 4 Name change

Cathy brought up the idea of a name change to: Letham Woodland Group, as a way of identifying the woods we are working with. This decision needs to go to next public meeting in order to ratify.

## 5 Other woods

Jim spoke to the meeting about the offer he has made to the community. On approval of his building proposal he wishes to gift the area called the 'Trimlins'. This would provide a natural boundary for the village and may tie in well with plans for the East woods.

East woods-during the conversation with Andrew (CWA) he suggested that these woods would provide an excellent opportunity to develop a coppicing plan over say a 5 year period, with the owner's permission. Then review at the end of the planned work and assess. This proposal will be part of the management report.

## 6 Shelters

There is seen to be need for some basic shelters within the woods.

It was suggested that a fabric circle could be used above the fire pit area, with fire wood stacked as temporary 'walls'. **Cathy & Neil Action, to look into materials and costs**

A simple timber 'bothy' could be built for bad weather conditions and to use as a store. **Neil Action, look into materials and costs**

## 7 Kids Woodskills group

Cathy & Paula brought the idea of running a monthly children's group based loosely on Woodcraft folk.

**Paula Action, to look into Woodcraft membership**

Cathy felt it should be open to all age groups, Paula that it was better to focus on 8-18. In the end the discussion went to the age range dependant on activity. Subs £3/4 for each day.

Cathy talked about insurance for group, noting that she already has insurance. **Cathy Action, to look into insurance**

Adults would be welcome to take part in the group but would require a Disclosure cert.

## AOB

Membership- family £10 individual £5

Tools- a need for small axes/ felling axe/bow saws etc, these could be bought out of A4A grant. Proposed that they could be stored meantime in NHTT shed, with permission.

Next meeting- 25<sup>th</sup> April 2pm @ firepit