



Letham Woodland AGM Minutes

Monday 25 August 2010

Present

Neil Stoddart

Louise Barron (minutes)

Cathy Bache

Sandy Finlayson

Hamid Van Koten

Paula Millwood

Apologies

Dave Hamilton

Chair Report

Shared the successes of the year which have included:

- Management Report
- Community Consultation
- Setting up LWG Children's Group
- Purchase of woodworking tools

Treasurers Report

Cathy presented the years accounts which were accepted by all present. Once Awards for All Money is returned we will have £300 in the account.

A4A

Cathy is preparing the final report for Awards for All. We will be returning £4716 of money awarded as we did not manage to do all the things applied for in the set timescale. It was agreed that perhaps we applied for more than we had capacity as a group to handle.

Re-Constitution

As the group moves forward to purchase the woods we will need to change our legal structure to allow us to own assets, access funding and to protect office bearers from liability.

The group discussed several options; Company Limited by Guarantee, Community Interest Company and Cooperative.

Consensus was reached that we should use the Community Interest Company model. This ensures that all assets are rooted within our community. We will amend the Articles of Association used by NHTT and then get a lawyer to check them over.

Also agreed:

- A CIC will require directors who will be formally proposed and seconded on adoption of CIC.
- The proposed quorum for decision making is 3
- We will have a code of conduct to allow for consensus decision making
- The registered office will be Neil's house

AP-Louise to look at Articles of Association

AP- Cathy to look at Code of Conduct

Funding Moving Forward

We now want to move forward with funding application for purchase of the woods. Potential funders highlighted were The Big Lottery Fund and SRDP Rural Priorities.

The group talked about what they would like to include in a funding application and suggestion were:

- Purchase of woods
- Insurance
- Legal fees
- Management Operations as highlighted in management plan
- Shelter/Tree house
- Fuel wood feasibility in partnership with NHTT's energy group
- Part time Development Officer post to ensure all above happen

Boundary Issues

We have still not obtained clarity on this.

AP- Cathy to get documents for Archie and also written confirmation of intent to sell the woods to LWG.

Vision Moving Forward

The group shared their visions of where we go from here:

The woods used for Reskilling, woodland classes, use as a venue for training.

We could own a network of woods in the area.

The Children's Group has already started making plans and there will be a bat walk in October and we hope to get the red squirrel officer out.

AOB

The Secret Garden have applied for funding for a yurt which will be available for the community to use.

Next meeting

TBC