

**WOOPLAW WARDENS
Minutes of Meeting
23rd April 2014
In the Cabin**



Present: R. Fleet; J. Collin; C. Fairgrieve; W. Ball; A. Finlayson; W. Finlayson; K. Wintrup; D. Donnelly (Chair)
Apologies: none

Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.

MATTERS ARISING

OSCR register

- The accounts have been successfully submitted. Registration renewal has been confirmed, although no written confirmation as yet. Submission was one month late and a late penalty of £150 has been imposed. There were exceptional circumstances for the delay and an appeal is being lodged which has to be in by 3rd May. The accounts are now clear for 2013/14

ACTION: Chris to lodge appeal

ACTION: Bob to inform OSCR of new committee members and the new directors.

ACTION: Dave to give Bob the necessary email contacts for the above

Seedcorn grant

- Bob followed this up but has not heard further. Grant can be applied for within the financial year 2014/15
- There is a possibility of funds through the proposed development of Longpark Windfarm near Stow. There are precedents for funding being channelled directly to community groups rather than through an intermediary community grant-giving body. It might be possible to obtain a memorandum of understanding from the developers (Wind Prospects). It was agreed that £2,500 p.a. would be a reasonable request to go towards supporting Wooplaw.

ACTION: Bob to pursue both these sources

Squirrels

- Grey squirrel control will need careful organisation. Traps need to be checked at least twice a day so rotas needed. Training in dispatching will be needed. March and August best seasons. Adjacent farm also practising squirrel control.

ACTION: waiting to hear from squirrel experts

Information

- Google account/ Dropbox all set up
- Minutes on website
- List of Wardens to be updated

ACTION: Dave to email current list of Wardens asking if they want to remain Wardens

Subscriptions

These are overdue

ACTION: Dave to send out email reminder to distribution list c. 15th May. Also to put message on Facebook

April activity

- Iron horse in need of TLC
- Chain saw - checked
- Logs will need to find a home

NEW BUSINESS

1. Visiting Groups

a. Booked Groups:

- Scouts from Hawick are wanting to camp midweek. A group of about 15.
- Bushcraft Group
- Drystane Dykers coming on 4th May
- Scout Group of c.150 are wanting to come and have requested some kind of instruction on knife/axe safety and fire lighting, etc.

ACTION: Dave and Bob to meet leaders to advise on organisation of such a large group

b. Fee-paying groups

- It has been noted that some groups are using Wooplaw as a venue for course run on a commercial basis. It was agreed that the organisers of such groups should pay Wooplaw 10% of the course cost and that the attendees should be required to become members of Wooplaw

2. Woodland Work

- a. Axehead stream needs clearing
- b. Ditch near Cabin needs clearing
- c. Gullet pond needs cleaning out
- d. Drainage of campsite
 - drainage ditches could be dug as a short term measure
 - boardwalk probably most sustainable solution
- e. Birch thinning

ACTION: Maintenance schedule needed

3. Events

JUNE/ JULY - Dragon Hunt (Dave Hardwick)

4. Finance

James has procured the forms to update the Bank of Scotland account details. Need to inform the Bank of the new Trustees, Directors and Committee office bearers. It was agreed that three signatories to the account would be advisable. Bob has agreed to stay on as signatory, Chair and Treasurer to be added. James will also update the internet banking access.

ACTION: James to update account access

Next Wardens' Meeting: Wednesday, 21st May at 19:00 in the cabin - NOTE EARLIER TIME

Next event – Green Woodworking Weekend: 24th - 25th May
Plantlife Survey: Sunday, 25th May