

WOOPLAW WARDENS

Minutes of Meeting

21st January 2015

7pm at Wooplaw



Present: James Collin – Treasurer/ vice chair, Bob Fleet – Sec, Will Finlayson, Wendy Ball, Anna Craigen, Stephen Baker

Apologies: Dave Donnelly – chair

ON-GOING BUSINESS

1. ADMINISTRATION

Organisation

- **Wooplaw Community Woodland Company:**
 - Nic Hunt has passed on the Company secretary files to James C.
 - The company accounts will be submitted in due course by the Treasurer, James C
 - The Company secretary will be appointed at the AGM in February
- **Charitable Trust:**
 - The Trustees, Directors and officers will be updated after our AGM
 - . The OSCR Nominated contact is - Bob Fleet using the e-mail address regulation@wooplaw.org.uk so each of the officers and directors gets copied in.

Membership

- Mailchimp seems to be working well. Noted that only Bob F is familiar with using this
- During recent examination of accounts it was noted that membership donations are declining.
- **Bob F** to send Mailchimp mailout to remind people of membership dues. **James C** to forward suitable text to Bob.

2. WOODLAND TASKS

- Mapping hazel in Cabin area - **Anna's volunteer group**

3. EVENTS

Programmed Events - all to be confirmed. Anna scheduling with Bob's help.

JANUARY: general tidy up

FEBRUARY: Coppicing (Donald McPhillimy/ Eoin Cox?)

MARCH: Willow harvest (Keith / Eoin / Toni Coyle?)

APRIL: Plant life survey (David Hardwick/ Sandy Bruce)

MAY: Green wood working (Bob Fleet)

JUNE: Fungal Foray (Ali Murfitt)

JULY: Mosses and Lichens (Sandy Bruce/ David Long)

AUGUST: Wild in the Woods (Anna Craigen)

SEPTEMBER: Wildflower Meadow Cut (David Hardwick) + talk on scything and wildflower meadows (by Hans Waitl BFT)

OCTOBER: Tweed Valley Forest Festival or Halloween Event (Bob Fleet)

NOVEMBER: Bushcraft (Dave Donnelly/ Stuart Fish); Wreath making (Anna Craigen)

DECEMBER: Cheeseymus shake up

- **Publicity for events programme: Anna C** with help of **James C** to design a poster for programme. **Bob** will forward previous one.

Future events

- Bushcraft meeting - February 6 - 8. Advertised on Facebook
- Wilderness First Aid
Craig Middleton organising, George Fell to run the course. Cost approx £100. Could be appropriate training for Climb and Walk leaders. The accredited outcome is ITC, top specification. Dave D to help organise and liaise. Possible dates in May and June 2015.

4. FINANCE

- Wooplaw accounts have been examined by Fraser Simm (independent expert) and have been passed as satisfactory. Two signed copies of the accounts will be added to the Directors' report and submitted to Companies House before 28th February. **James C.**
- Bank account transfer still ongoing. **James C** to chase. The branch has not been very helpful.
- Wooplaw's BFT membership paid

5. GRANTS

- All purchases for the Forestry Commission seedcorn grants have been completed apart from the chainsaw training certification and chainsaw. James C has completed the receipt forms and associated paperwork. Impact assessment has to be written once in use.
- Paperwork for path strimming grant from Council (claimed through Stow CC) passed to Stow CC. New grant application being applied for by **James C/Bob**

6. OTHER ACTIVITIES

Stove

- Anna C's volunteer group has mended the cabin stove chimney. A big thank you to all concerned.
- **James C.** is going to make a door for the stove
- Ideally the stove needs baffles to make it more efficient

Totem Pole

It is recorded that the totem pole in Easter Park has fallen down

Carrier bag charges

- **James C** is getting the lids laser printed. **Bob F** to swap and empty boxes once done.
- Fabric shop in Melrose willing to take a box.

Chainsaw training

- Dave D has successfully completed chainsaw training and qualifies for NPTC ticket
- Chainsaw to be purchased

Publicity

- Facebook Wooplaw Group page is regularly used and now has over 400 friends
- It was suggested that the poster for the Programme of Events be circulated widely in the local area. A small version could be submitted to the Lauderdale News. **Anna C** and **James C**

NEW BUSINESS

- Over the Christmas period, the lock on the Container was jemmed open and a significant number of tools and equipment stolen. Bob F has drawn up an inventory of all the tools and equipment stolen which has been given to the police. Some have a 'w' branded on them. Insurance claim has been submitted. Once result of claim known, a meeting will be called to discuss the tools replacement and future storage.

Next Wardens' Meeting: Wed 18th February, 7pm in Lauderdale Hotel, Lauder
Next Event: Sunday, 22nd February - Coppicing