

# FRIENDS OF CARPENTERS WOOD

## COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 3 March 2011 at 1.30 pm

at 28 Carpenters Wood Drive

Present: Barbara Green – Chair, Frank Mahon-Daly, Pam Ferrar, Barbara Christie, Tony Edwards, Alex Lurie - CMS, Donald MacLean – Vice-Chair, Stephen Ramsay – Treasurer, Lesley Edwards – Secretary, Fiona Lean .

1. Apologies for Absence

None.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Agreed subject to the following corrections:-

Under Matters Arising, first paragraph:

TRDC and the Forestry Commission financed the leaflets.

Under treasurer's Report, final paragraph:

The funding was received from the Local Area Forum TRDC Grant.

3. Matters Arising

BG has made enquiries of TRDC about volunteers using chain saws or heavy equipment. There is no insurance for volunteers to use such equipment; if a job is too big for FOCW to deal with we have to wait for CMS or TRDC to tackle it.

4. Treasurer's Report

Since our last meeting we have received £250 from the Parish Council for the Quiz Evening and we raised £60 on the Christmas Stall. BG thanked all those involved for their hard work.

We had an outlay of £49.35 for the banner and our cash balance currently stands at £745 which is the highest balance yet.

New gloves were raised as a future expenditure and following Stephen's suggestion it was agreed that volunteers would be reimbursed up to £6 to purchase gloves for their individual use.

It has been noticed that a local resident has taken a large amount of the felled wood in Whitelands Wood and BG will send an e-mail to all members suggesting that if they take any wood they might like to make a donation to FOCW. **Action BG.**

#### 5. Report on Progress of Volunteer Group

Bad weather over the winter months reduced our work programme but we have concentrated on Laurel and Holly clearance culminating in a bonfire to dispose of the Laurel. Alex said he will arrange for TRDC to treat the remaining stumps. **Action AL.**

The brush piles created by FOCW over the last year have all died down very well.

We should manage a couple more sessions, weather permitting, before we need to ease up because of disturbance to wildlife. Alex said that he recommended no disturbance at all over the early to mid summer period. We then discussed what we could do during this period. Clearing the Larch brash in Hillas and work on brambles and path clearing was suggested. Alternatives to work in the woodland were discussed including work on the beds in The Parade and litter picking in the hedgerows along Shire Lane.

The erection of a handrail and/or steps on the steep section at the entrance from Whitelands Avenue was suggested by Pam as it is a slippery slope in wet or frosty weather. This needs to be investigated by volunteers and possibilities discussed.

BC suggested that we renovate the old wooden board showing the bridleways at the Farm Gate rather than removing it. BC agreed to tackle this. **Action BC.**

The wire from the rabbit fence is still at the Farm Gate awaiting collection. BG to request removal by TRDC. **Action BG.**

#### 6. Review of Five Year Plan – new forward plan?

SR suggested that the new plan should be in place for September and it was decided that this could be discussed in detail if a scheduled working session is cancelled due to bad weather. All agreed this was a good idea.

Ash clearance in Whitelands is completed and Larch thinning in Hillas is now well under way. Clarification needed to be sought regarding how much more Larch removal would be undertaken in future years.

The existing plan was scrutinized and it was considered appropriate that we focus on relevant work that we consider needs tackling over the next five years.

The erection of horse chicanes should be on the new Five Year Plan as the misuse of footpaths by horse riders is on the increase. Alex suggested that we approach the stables regarding this misuse.

The path behind the houses on Whitelands Avenue was also discussed with regard to improving its surface, as it becomes a quagmire in winter. Volunteers will investigate, but because of the gradient of the bank alongside the path, options may be limited. **Action BG**

TRDC are in the process of arranging for notice boards to be provided. BC requested that a copy of the bye-laws be posted thereon.

7. Update – Website and Notice Boards

Donald was thanked for his continued excellent work and he requested that we forward any photographs or relevant points of interest regarding the woods to him at [donald@maclean.org](mailto:donald@maclean.org)

Notice boards – covered in item 6.

8. Events

Village Day is on Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup> this year. We will look upon this as an opportunity to raise our profile and recruit volunteers. We have plenty of leaflets. Please contact Tony with any suggestions for fund raising. TE was asked if he could book our pitch for the Village Day with the Parish Council. **Action TE.**

9. AOB

Leaflets have been distributed to the roads immediately adjacent to the woods. It was discussed whether the catchment area should be increased. It was felt that it may be better to save our leaflets for events such as Village Day.

BC expressed concern that fly tipping would increase having read the mis-reported article regarding brown bins in the local paper. From this June brown bins will be emptied weekly and there will only be a charge if householders wish to use a second brown bin. This should help to prevent fly tipping rather than encourage it.

10. Date of next meeting

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011 at 28 Carpenters Wood Drive at 1.30 pm

