**Minutes of the RAW Committee held via Zoom on Friday 5th March 2021**

Present; Peter Dreghorn, Andy Stott, Norma Fears, Steven Gillespie, Gareth Pedley

Apologies: Jackie Galley, Nick Chisholm

1. **Welcome**Peter welcomed Steven and Gareth who were new attendees. He explained that this new group RAW has been formed to continue the work of the River Annan Trust, which is moth- balled. As expressed at the last meeting it may start up again in the next year or so. When that happens RAW could be subsumed back into the Trust.
2. **Review of Constitution**Andy shared his screen on Zoom and an online discussion editing session commenced. At the end, the discussions an agreed draft constitution was produced. Andy will circulate to the committee. All members are welcome to offer suggestions.

*Action: Andy*
3. **Election of Officials**Peter volunteered to be chairman and Andy offered to be secretary. The post of treasurer is to be advertised. Anyone with any suggestions, please contact Peter or Andy.

*Action: All*
4. **Business Plan**Peter explained that Andy, himself and a friend of Andy’s Nabil, have produced a draft Business Plan for RAW. It is in the form of a PowerPoint presentation. Peter said the meeting had run out of time and Andy agreed to circulate the PowerPoint with these minutes. They would be discussed at the next meeting. Peter explained that the business plan was to help us establish and plan what we are going to do and to assist in the applying for funding from Scottish Enterprise. This would be for office, project officer and other resources. It is two phases a start-up phase which needs around £2-3K and then a longer project requiring talking to landowners, establishing suppliers etc. We have decided not to be a charity, but a constituted group with a business plan. This will require a bank account, hence the requirement for a treasurer.

*Action: Andy*
5. **Current Activities

a)** Matthew White Craigieburn Farm has requested more trees for its site which RAW planted, he favours Aspen behind the alder and willow.

b) Peter Hughes at Annanside Cottage would like to be part of the RAW programme for his large damp field alongside the Annan in Moffat
c) Richard Smith at Smaillgillis is planting his 1-hectare field alongside Moffat Water with 800 trees from Woodland Trust. The trees may not materialise this season because of Covid. I have acted as adviser and support and given him some trees and tubes/stakes in return for personal consultancy re Solar Panels.
d) Bodesbeck reported that some trees have been washed away at their site, so we should inspect it as soon as possible.

1. **Next Meeting** It was agreed that it would be Friday 26th March at 14:00 via Zoom. Peter will send out the Zoom details with an agenda.

*Action: Peter*
2. **Funding**No funds currently available but Andy and Peter are applying to the local community council

*Action: Andy*

**AOB**

There was good discussion around the need to scope new sites from a total eco system perspective recognising the need for diversity rather than just fences and trees. Thanks Gareth and Steven. Norma also mentioned the need to educate people to take account of the total diversity rather than just trees.

*Action: Develop a process to ensure all aspects of the environment are considered. To be considered for a future meeting*

*Action: Develop educate people about the need for diversity. To be considered for a future meeting*

Gareth was asked if he knows where we can get river fly kits. He agreed to investigate.
*Action: Gareth (Update- Thanks to Gareth we had a message from the River Fly Partnership who are offering kits at £10 each so we have put in for 10 kits*

*from the Moffat Community Council Grant)*

Andy mentioned that we should make sure we take part in the forthcoming Eagle Festival in Moffat in September. Peter has already spoken to Leys Geddes.

**Further Updates since the meeting**

Andy's address is now the RAW address

PD offered the treasurer post to another Annan burnside landowner, from Upper Annandale. He will attend the next meeting to make his decision.

 Previously RAW dug up 200 Alder saplings from the Moffat Community Nature Reserve where they want to have a Wet hay meadow with no trees. On inspection this week there are still many there which can be used before March 31st.

Corehead planting is half done which is visible on the banks of the Annan just before the Barn.

Jackie Galley of SEPA asked me to follow up on the Milnbie Caul which was meant to have a fish pass constructed by April on behalf of RAW and all stakeholders. This is an interim measure prior to removal. The consultant was phoned and said engineering works will start in the summer.

New website and domain is up and running... <https://raw.scot>

Finally…

Peter asks that we keep a record of all expenditure..

Andy Stott

10 March 2021