**Minutes of the RAW Committee held via Zoom on Friday 26th March 2021**

Present; Peter Dreghorn, Andy Stott, Steven Gillespie, Gareth Pedley, Jackie Galley

Apologies: Norma Fears, Nick Chisholm, Andy Tunnicliffe

1. **Welcome**Peter welcomed Jackie as a new attendee. Norma was planning to attend, but her laptop had sadly died and Andrew who is to be the group’s treasurer was attending a funeral in Dumfries. Peter asked if RAW could use the WTT logo on the web site. Gareth agreed to check with Shaun Leonard his boss.  
     
   *Action: Gareth*
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting**Andy had circulated them and there were no amendments or anything missing. He would change the status from Draft and upload to the RAW website and add the link.*Action: Andy*
3. **Actions arising from the minutes.**  
   2) Constitution, see later   
     
   3) Post of treasurer, Peter was please to announce that a friend and neighbour Andy Tunnicliffe was interested in the role, he just needed to know what was involved.  
   A remit was agreed and is drafted below.  
     
   a) Manage the RAW funds in the RAW Bank Account  
   b) Produce monthly accounts  
   c) Receipt payments and make payments on behalf of RAW  
   d) Help & assist in finding funding for RAW.  
   Peter will check that this is fine with Andy T.  
   *Action: Peter*  
   4) Business plan – held over to the next meeting  
     
   7) Funding, Peter and Andy had applied to the Moffat and District Community Council for a grant of £500 to get the group up and running. We have been awarded the money and are awaiting the setting up of a bank account to receive the funds. This £500 is for un-constituted groups and more funding could be available once we are fully constituted.
4. **News**Peter has been speaking to the contact at the River Fly Partnership and we will be buying 10 kits for use this summer. We would need to arrange training though; Peter agreed to contact them and see if they have any local trainers. Nick Chisholm maybe able to advise.  
   *Action: Peter*Peter and Andy have a meeting with SOSE investigating a grant from them for funding a Project Officer and possibly some sort of shop. If anyone would like to attend, please advise Peter. A discussion around the role of a shop then took place. It was agreed more thought was required.
5. **Constitution**Andy had circulated, and comments had been received from Norma, Gareth and Jackie. Andy agreed to produce a final draft for agreement and would circulate to the group and ask for approval over email.*Action: Andy*
6. **PayPal** If the website has a Donate Now capability, the PayPal functionality might be easier. Andy and AndyT will investigate and report back.  
   *Action: Andy & AndyT*
7. **Funding**Peter explained the as well as the 10 river fly kits and £340 worth of tree stakes, tubes and trees to plant. But if the funds do not come through in time for the planting season, we may need to re-think the planting. There are also some Alder trees available via the local nature reserve group.  
   Possibly we could buy seeds and seed trays and involve local schools. Peter also has some sessile oak seedlings that could be used. Steven also mentioned getting material from the forestry commission. There was general agreement that saplings and seeds were the way to go with schools.  
   The Woodland Trust was also mentioned but have been hacked and were not 100% operational.  
   At Milnbie Caul there will be a new eel pass built this early summer. This is seen as an early part of the project to determine the future of the Caul.  
   Gareth expressed concern that the existing fish pass is not good for downstream migration of smolts in low flows and though that the whole project could be a great educational exercise on the benefits of removing weirs. Jackie will pick up the smolt migration with SEPA. Jackie explained that there is a wealth of data on migrations. If we can get more data on the Caul re flooding etc which would be great to see.

It was agreed that an on-site meeting would be useful, Jackie Graham (ex Galloway Fisheries Trust) or Shaun would be invited along to give the fisheries view. To understand the delays etc is important and will need selling to local stakeholders.  
  
*Action:* TBA arranged when travel can be arranged safely.

1. **Email address and WhatsApp Group**  
     
   Treasurer and secretary emails to be agreed.  
     
   WhatsApp group to be set up as a means of sharing up to date information. It was agreed that we set up. Andy will contact members for mobile numbers.  
   *Action: Andy*
2. **AOB**Summer Activities  
     
   a) River Fly Sampling  
   b) Planting Willow cuttings  
   c) Plating Trees we can buy  
   d) Litter picking (in line with the request from the Community Council)
3. **Jackie’s AOB**Anna Griffin from SEPA on natural capital and BorderLands inititives to give a talk. Invited to the next meeting, let us give her 20 minutes. Could link into SOSE too raising our profile and get more funds.
4. **Gallows Hill Trust Blue Bell Wood alongside the Annan.**Andy mentioned he has seen this on the Moffat Community Facebook page. The trust are considering planting bluebells and trees in land adjacent to the river by the football pitch. Andy agreed to speak to Jon Haydon.  
   *Action: Andy*
5. **WTT Resources**  
   Milnbie Caul visit to take place when number restrictions have been lifted. The WTT has some funding for doing small advisory visits in Scotland. He suggested that he could do that for us, habitat surveys etc. Jackie was interested in how we could identify areas for attention. It appears that the Trust had an intern back in 2018 who did this assessing the capacity of the various parts of the river vs fishing catch returns and electro fishing. It would be extremely useful to have sight of this.  
   Peter suggested maybe looking at the river through the town., what it is like and what it could be like. Could be a useful habitat assessment/educational exercise for townsfolk.   
   It was thought that could be a useful exercise.
6. **Next Meeting April 23rd 14:00**

Andy Stott

28 March 2021