

Minutes of the RAW Committee held via Teams on Monday, March 13th 2023

Present; Andy Stott, Norma Fears, Andy Tunnicliffe, Peter Dreghorn, Martyn Lyall, Nick Major

Apologies: Annan Griffin, Nick Chisholm, and Gareth Pedley

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

Andy had circulated them. The meeting accepted them. Andy would change the status from Draft and upload to the RAW website and add the link.

Action: Andy

2. **Actions arising from the minutes.**

a) **Feedback from Eagle Festival and Moffat Academy**

A lot of interest in RAW, and Rick Taylor who organises the festival is very supportive. Again, a lot of interest from a few people. School is interested in Fly Life monitoring. And to follow up with Shara Routledge.

Action: Andy - We are now following up with the environmental group of Moffat Academy sixth formers – See later

b) **River Flies**

Now happening on three sites. Andy will speak to Anna about getting old data and trigger levels.

Action: Anna - Anna to write letter to River Annan Trust after discussion with Andy S - Outstanding

SEPA Partnership

c) See later item in the minutes.

d) Andy raised the needs to change the constitution to allow single approval of payment through the Bank of Scotland app.

Action: Andy S to investigate with Andy T – Decided to leave as is action closed.

e) Peter asked if Anna could find out if there are any records of eels using the eel pass.

Action: Anna Anna suggested that July 2024 would be a good time to do a survey.

We could approach GRT about a survey in 2023 for fish passing the caul.

Action: Andy - Andy to approach Ollie Routledge re surveys. Anna to check what SEPA have done, Outstanding

f) **Milnbie Caul**

Peter will write to the NDA and D&G council.

Action: Peter - DONE

3. **SOSTPG Update – Nic**

Nic gave the meeting an update as follows, seven sites have been submitted with six have been approved, just waiting on the Dark Skies one. That means 735 trees to be

planted, order for trees placed. He will need some help with coordination of what trees go where.

Action: All to respond on request via WhatsApp

The scotch pine is in TreeSurv's possession already and mentioned that the Dark skies site may need strimming a few times during the summer as the trees are small.

Peter mentioned that RAW members might be able to help with planters as required.

Peter also mentioned that more applications might be possible. Using trees from the nursery might be a possibility, Andy will also contact Ollie Routledge to check his requirements.

Andy S will let Nic know the status of planting using local young people. RAW may be putting the trees in at Holehouse.

Action: Nic to advise via WhatsApp.

4. FoCo Landscape Planting

Nic reported to progress as Treesurv are flat out with current workload. The work will progress once their workload reduces. Peter asked Nic to make telephone contact with the landowners.

Action: Nic to contact landowners to reassure them that the applications are in the pipeline and will be processed for next year.

Nic mentioned that the Woodland Trust have their own funds via scheme called MOREwoods for grants up to 75% of the cost for a minimum of half hectare, where the shape of the planting is flexible. Peter mentioned that he had some experience of it, the process taking 2 years. Nic mentioned Treesurv are approved contractors. Peter agreed to speak to the Woodland Trust.

Action: Peter

It may be possible to get the additional 25% funding + labour costs from another source of grant funding.

5. Treasurer's Report

Andy T reported that the account currently has £751.36p in it. Peter reported that the £400 grant from Beattock Kirkpatrick Juxta Community council has been spent on tree stakes and 600 plant cells.

6. Tree Nursery Update

Peter reported that we have a lot of seeds and acorns have been planted. Outside tap is now installed and visitors please water and possibly raised beds. There is also a possibility of another polytunnel less skin. The Pollocks have indicated they would be happy to have it on the far side of the current one. Norma to speak to Callum about the possibility of his trailer to transport the frame.

Action: Norma

Peter to investigate the frame and advise.

Action: Peter to advise Norma.

Andy reported he has the sign and a log to put outside the polytunnel. Andy asked if Peter could ask Pete Ryan to put the sign together. Also, Peter to investigate the cost of additional staging from the polytunnel supplier.

Action: Peter

Peter has posted on the RAW Facebook page TCV information about the planting of

seeds.

Martin, is happy to visit the nursery as he passes it every day. Andy suggested getting a small whiteboard to record planting.

7. Beattock Primary School Rivers & Tree Day

The Beattock Primary Tree and Rives day was a great success for the school, the RAW Programme and Beattock House. Andy, Janice, Martin, Brenda, and Peter had screefed forty plus holes which we had dug, plus putting in a stake. Andy had made a video of doing the river fly capture and analysis with his grandchildren. Just in case the weather was bad. We gave the video to the school, and they showed it before the day with other materials Peter had dropped off. So, on the day we had two sessions of looking at the river flies, one in the morning with some samples from the Annan, and one in the afternoon with samples from the Evan. The children knew what to look for and had been drawing the flies the day before.

Peter's son had previously made a video identifying the trees along the path into Beattock House and Peter and Martin used this to make a tree trail for the children. The children planted a tree each with their name on and the Pollocks have given the school a map showing the location of each tree.

On the following Friday, seven nursery children came with three and staff and planted some bird cherry. Pictures have been placed onto Facebook.

8. Milnbie Caul

Peter has been written to NDA via the Access and Communications manager and asked them about plans for the Caul regarding its removal. He hasn't had a reply, so he is now going to write again using a Freedom of Information request to ask for the information. He has also asked for a copy of the 200-page report that was produced by consultants. Anna has reported that pipes and valves etc have been removed on the power station side of the Caul. Peter is going to attend the stakeholders meeting on April 19th an Annan Town Hall to ask what the status and position is wrt the removal of the Caul.

9. Re-meandering at Crosslaw Burn.

Anna has suggested dates of 23,24, 31st March or 5,6th April. For visiting Little Yarrow
Action: Andy to quickly set up a Rally poll to find the best date and will also invite Nick Bullard at Peter's request.

Anna is trying to book a date with Roberto Martinez to look at Moffat Water and Crosslaw Burn.

10. Riverwoods

Andy reported that the business plan for the Annan Riparian Restoration Network had been submitted. It looks to be a good bid with positive signs from all parties. He will obtain a copy. Result should be known by early May

Action: Andy

11. Fundraising

Everyone agreed we need more funds for everyday running of the group, being able to maintain a healthy cash flow during the planting season and supporting the tree nursery. It was agreed that we seek to get funds for this type of expenditure rather than specific projects. After some discussion, it was agreed that £5000 was the amount we should be aiming for.

Norma to approach her contact.

Action: Norma

Peter to pen an email to the group

Action: Peter

12. Wych Elm and Willow Planting in Summer

Peter explained that it is easy to grow willow from cuttings. Wych elm seeds appear in May.

13. Moffat Academy Update

Nothing to report, two letters via Jessica has produced no response. Andy agreed to speak to Shara Routledge. Andy said that he had been given a contact with D&G Youth Workers, which he will follow.

Action: Andy

14. Litter Collection.

Held over, Andy reported he had retrieved a child's pedal toy from the river when planting the oak trees last month.

15. River Fly Training update and training

We have definitely two candidates and possibly some teachers. Martin would like to be a trainer and NTS might be willing to fund it. Andy to contact John Clayton and seek advice.

16. AOB

Martin gave an update on Grey Mares Tail. There is some back and forth on enclosing some of the streams with funding from Nature Scot and RSPB.

Next meeting – Peter suggested bimonthly, so we will aim for early May.

Andy Stott
16/03/2023