

## Minutes of the RAW Committee held via Teams on Monday, July 31<sup>st</sup> 2023

Present; Andy Stott, Norma Fears, Peter Dreghorn, Nick Major, Nick Chisholm, Richard Smith, and Gareth Pedley

Apologies: Andy Tunnicliffe, Martyn Lyall, Anna Griffin

### 1. Introductions

Richard Smith introduced himself to the meeting. He lives up Moffat Water at Roundstone Foot and planted trees in his 3 acres. He's joined RAW with the objective of taking the lead on re-engineering and remeandering. Peter introduced all the other attendees.

### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting

*Andy S 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*

### 3. Actions arising from the minutes.

#### a) River Flies

Anna has written and spoken to Olly Routledge. Awaiting response.

*Action: Anna -*

#### b) Milnbie Caul

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

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

#### c) SOSTPG

Peter to write protocol for 2023 projects – **Done**

#### d) FIRNS Application

Andy sent copy to everyone.

### 4. Treasurers Report

Andy T had submitted a statement showing the account had just less than £600.

Expenditure not yet accounted for includes seeds and the forthcoming Zurich Insurance Policy

### 5. Tree Nursery Update

The only seeds that were collected by Davy Cairns and have germinated are hazel, birch, and alder. Mice eat all the 200 hazel nuts that were sown, and we have Juniper 60 trees. The Scots Pine need planting in October. We have also from TCV, Hawthorn Aspen, Alder, Dogrose and Bird Cherry in the raised beds. We need around £200 for further

expansion using the second-hand frame, more staging, netting, soil etc.

## **6. Foundation Scotland**

Andy explained that he has chased them as they should have sent a form for us to report progress on the £2000 grant, they awarded us for the initial polytunnel etc. This they have done, and Andy is completing the report. He also indicated to them that we would like to expand, and they replied saying they would be amenable to further funding.

*Action: Peter to make a list of requirements*

Nick suggested we get together/make contact with other community-based tree nurseries across D&G. The meeting thought this a great idea and Andy suggested setting up a WhatsApp group.

*Action: Nick to provide details.*

## **7. LT Funding Grant**

Andy explained that Anna had previously suggested using the SEPA Landfill Tax grants scheme to find sources of funding. He explained that quite a few had either closed, or their criteria didn't match what we are doing. However, he had found one, called LT, after some conversations with them, it seem we could apply for some monies. The draft application was attached to the agendas. Peter called it TIME (Trout in the Moffat Ecosystem). Expanding our fly life monitoring, putting woody debris in the river and tree planting. No comments were received.

*Action: all to comment by 7<sup>th</sup> August*

## **8. South of Scotland Planting Scheme**

We have five confirmed and several in the pipeline. When we have sites, we need to get the forms into Nic before the end of September. Nic asked Andy to check site we have already approved, and possibly looking at the Woodland Trust?

## **9. Little Yarrow Visit – August 22<sup>nd</sup> am**

Andy will pull list of attendees and Norma will act as the focus on the day.

*Action: Andy & Norma*

## **10. Annandale Project**

Nick shared update on this project. An expression of interest is going into the National Lottery Heritage Fund by 4<sup>th</sup> August. The project will be based on the Annan but may include the Border Esk. A five-year project from Moffat to Annan, significantly bigger than the Galloway Glens project. The first part will be funding for developing scope etc. There is particularly interested in natural flood management around Moffat. Looking at putting community engagement into the more strategic picture. Jan Hogarth and Karen Morley are working on it.

## **11. Meandering**

Anna has been to see the burn and will be producing a report. She raised a point about

the depth of the burn below the surrounding land. It may need to do quite a bit of work. A meeting to agree a way forward is proposed. It seems that a section of Moffat Water may be less complicated than first thought.

#### **12. National Trust for Scotland – Partnership**

Peter has been in contact with them asking them to be partners with RAW, but only to a certain extent. They are pleased that Martin is working with us scoping sites along Moffat Water and the Grey Mare's Tail. The actual tree planting and restoration is a second part and Peter has a meeting with the NTS's operations manager in August to talk about small tree planting grant in 2023 to establish a foothold.

#### **13. FoCo Landscape Planting**

Nic has conducted a site visit to Kay Black at Hightae and she seems very happy with the plans. The other sites will be fitted in as possible. Nic agreed to email the other sites to remind them that TreeSurv will be coming.

*Action: Nic*

#### **14. Milnbie Caul**

Meeting with Stake Holders will be August 9<sup>th</sup> in Annan, Peter and Andy will be attending and hopefully will be adopted as stakeholders.

#### **15. Luke Scott Visit**

Andy reported Luke was coming to Moffat and they planned to visit Dark Skies Distillery and look at the site.

#### **16. FIRNS Application**

The application is still progressing. Richard stated that the Moffat Water Hall had also sent a letter of support.

#### **17. Moffat Eagle Festival**

We will have a presence there on 23<sup>rd</sup> September in the Town Hall.

#### **18. Funding**

Looking to get more from Foundation Scotland for the tree nursery and Peter mentioned that he was going to try with Nature Scot on restoration, he has a person who can help.

#### **19. AOB**

Ericstane planting by Borders Forest Trust and Gresham House. Peter and Brenda, Andy and Janice will attend.

*Action: Peter and Andy will update next time.*

#### **20. Personhood of The River**

Peter tabled the idea and Gareth said he had had an email on the topic that day North American and New Zealand indigenous people have declared one of their rivers in law

as a person. In that respect it now has the same rights as a person as to be entitled to a safe passage, free from harm, abuse, alteration and able to function. It does include sustainable use of the river for human purposes

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/30/saving-the-whanganui-can-personhood-rescue-a-river>

### **21. Compost Toilet**

Peter wants to introduce the idea and ask if members want to try one. . From all scientific research, human waste is a major polluter of rivers causing algae blooms, oestrogen affecting starling reproduction and anti-biotics also not sequestered at sewage works. Secondly human waste could and perhaps now should return to the ecosystems of gardens and farms. <https://wellbeingsolutions.org.uk/human-waste/>

**22.**

**23. Next meeting** . To be arranged for the last week in September

Andy Stott

06/08/2023