

Minutes of the RAW Committee held via Zoom on Wednesday, April 20th 2022

Present; Peter Dreghorn, Andy Stott, Gareth Pedley, Norma Fears, Jackie Galley, Nick Chisholm, James Short

Apologies: Andy Tunnicliffe

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. Peter introduced James Short from Treesurv, who has joined the RAW group and brings a wealth of tree planting experience to the group. He will be useful in future grant applications and in managing projects.

3. Actions arising from the minutes.

- a) River Litter Pick – Postpones until better weather

Action: Andy

- b) River Flies

Andy has had contact with the lady at the River Flies office in Windemere re training. She has sent him details of a trainer, John Clayton who is ex-SEPA and is willing to travel to Moffat to conduct the training which is unlikely to be before May. Andy will discuss dates and advise also if it will be 'a train the trainer session' or just a regular training course. The Riverflies person also confirmed that there is currently no Annan data in their system.

Action: Andy

Peter to provide Andy with his data from 8 years ago.

DONE

- c) The 3 Waters Meet film will cost £3k to £4k to show. Need to think about it. Nick to follow up.

Action: Nick

- d) RiverWoods film

Peter has seen the film, Norma said it would cost £150 to show at the Old Well Theatre. This would allow us to show the film and have an hour afterwards to chat. Nick proposed that we all chip in £20 to start. Then ask for donations at the event. All agreed. It was proposed to do one showing and, then see how it went and then look to show in Lockerbie/ Johnstone Bridge. Norma suggested we design a poster and decide on a date. Jackie asked Is there anything we can hang it off? Possibility of doing something jointly with Pip Tabor Silence in the Hills Project.

We need to specifically invite Community Council and local Head Teacher.

4. **Planting status**

We have had 4 sites, Oakrigside, Reddings, Gardenholm and Meikleholmside. The funds coming from small grants from a collaboration involving Tweed Forum, Galloway Glens and Borders Forest Trust. Small grants for planting <.25Ha, less than £1000 and we acted as agents for the landowners. The process was rushed, and we made a few mistakes, but overall had been very successful. Photos are available on the RAW Facebook pages from Nick. There were some issues with tree availability, but these were overcome.

Meikleholmside was challenging to Treesurv getting the trees in the ground, but the preserved. Treesurv provided the trees, stakes, and tubes as well as planting. Nick said that Galloway Glens stated that they recognised the success of the planting.

Andy also reflected that we need to put contingencies for inflation in future and also have applications already in the system, not being placed at the last moment.

James asked about ongoing maintenance. Peter will produce a maintenance schedule.

Action; Peter

Scottish Forestry had a meeting with Peter, about their cooperative planting scheme established in 2017. It involved 4-5 farmers getting together to plant in adjacent areas of not less than 0.25ha. The scheme didn't work except at Teviot head, in other locations farmers didn't want to work together. They have now taken out that farmers must cooperate, the planting now must be in the same vicinity. Now only 2 farmers must work together. It is called a landscape planting project, with £250m in the coffers. They came to talk to Peter to get us on board. They will pay up to £10k project management per project. Peter has asked for a project training day. James has Nick looking into it. The strip of planting needs to be at least 15m thick. Jackie asked about the aftercare funding, Peter not sure need to investigate. Peter will get feedback from the Tweed Forum experience.

Jackie said that SEPA would be extremely interested to support this. Chris Ride was the person from FLS. Jackie mentioned that Jamie Carruthers would be a useful person to talk to at Hightae and his son.

Gareth asked if we could approach farmers w.r.t taking subsidies for not farming. This need to be investigated as to what happens in Scotland.

It was agreed to start with one project which Peter will lead and focus on the upper Annan. Possibly with NTS Moffat Water which isn't great.

5. **Tree Nursery Proposal**

Peter and Andy have put together a grant application to ANCC to fund a polytunnel and rent of a field to start a tree nursery. We have discovered that for anything greater than £2000 we need get 25% match funding. So we will apply for £2000. There is a huge shortage of trees, and we can start by collecting our own seeds. Galloway Glens through Jonathan Barrett as a reference/supporter. Andy stated that we will know by the end of May if we have been successful. If we are we need a site and outlying planning permission.

6. **Meeting with Lord Ananndale**

Peter had a meeting with the Lord and he indicated his support for ongoing RAW activities. He is also going to arrange a meeting with his Forrester to talk about planting on the estate and notion of siting the tree nursery at Rae Hills.

Andy to write to set up a meeting

Action: Andy

7. Moffat Nature Reserve

We have recently removed 20+ Alders from the Moffat Nature Reserve and planted along the Annan at Ericstane and Reddings. There was some confusion over doing this and as a result we have agreed to request formally for any future tree removals.

8. Milnbie Caul

Date should after 23rd April subject to flow conditions.

9. Summer Willow Sticks Planting

This is something that we could do this summer. This should provide more cover.

10. Tweed Forum Visit

On June 16th we are getting a visit from South of Scotland Planting Scheme, Galloway Glens, Borders Forest Trust and Tweed Forum to look at our recent planning sites at the Reddings etc.

11. Andy mentioned that below Peter's property there are trees and branches blown/fallen into the river and Gareth suggested we take some positive publicity from this to encourage more people to leave trees in the rivers. "This is not a 'scruffy river' this is habitat being preserved for wildlife."

If we could get some landowners interested, we could do so 'engineered wood placements. For example, Annandale estates.

Andy & Norma volunteered to help in the FLS scheme, subject to some training.

Action: Andy & Norma

12. Publicity

Will drip feed stores and Nick to organise press releases through D&G and Galloway Glens.

Norma happy to progress material with Moffat News.

James to send picture to Nick.

Action: Nick

13. Nick happy to do more film shooting, in better weather. Perhaps building on the RiverWoods in a local way.

14. AOB

Next Meeting, Andy to send out a Doodle poll for end of May.

Andy Stott

26/04/2022