



We had 12 schools represented with a few cancellations due to the weather.

Simon explained what OWL was and explained how a north group could be set up.

Simon/Julie described some of the projects that had happened in the South Highland OWL group.

Simon explained how resources for schools could be accessed.

The meeting went well with everyone in agreement that a North Highland Owl group should be set up. Due to different commitments it was decided that future meetings should be held on different days of the week.

We have the following proposed positions;

Chair – Simon Harry

Secretary – Julie Brewer

Minutes Secretary – Kerry Dolan

Treasurer – Shirley-Anne Stevenson

Date of next meeting is 25<sup>th</sup> February to discuss the group formal set up, launch and A.O.B.



**North Highland O.W.L. Meeting**  
**Hilton of Cadboll Primary School**  
**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**Present** – Catherine Allison (Ardross Primary School), Sue Coggins (Ardross Primary School), Kerry Dolan (Ardross Primary School), Fiona MacRae (Ankerville Nursery), Bonnie Maggio (O.W.L. Scotland), Simon Harry (Evanton Woods), Katherine Elbourne (South Lodge Primary School), Julie Brewer (Milton Primary School), KY, Abby Forrest (Hilton Primary School), Catriona MacRae (Hilton Primary School), Karla Urquhart (Hi-Life Highland), Kate Flaxman (Obsdale Primary School), Petria Brooke-Carr (Alness Academy), Shirley Anne Stevenson (Ferintosh Primary School)

**Apologies** – Christine Gordon, Glenda MacKenzie, Jodie MacKay, Susan Gunn, Robert Dinneen (Youth Development Officer), Jake Williams (Hi-Life Highland), Frederique Lacraz (Alness Academy)

1. Simon opened the meeting with a warm welcome and introduced Bonnie Maggio from O.W.L. Scotland to the group. Bonnie apologised for being unable to attend our first meeting as she had been advised of icy and dangerous conditions on the A9.
2. Kerry read the minutes of the last meeting and they were approved as a true record; Lorna proposed the minutes and they were seconded by Shirley Anne.
3. Simon was happy to declare that there had been enough interest established at the last meeting to form the North Highland O.W.L. group. As a result of the interest shown Simon and Bonnie drew up an O.W.L. constitution for the benefit of the group.
4. The officers bearers for the group were voted in as follows:

Chairperson; Simon Harry was proposed by Julie Brewer and seconded by Petria Brooke-Carr

Treasurer; Shirley Anne Stevenson was proposed by Julie Brewer and seconded by Simon Harry

Administrator; Julie Brewer was proposed by Simon Harry and seconded by Petria Brooke-Carr

Minutes Secretary; Kerry Dolan was proposed by Simon Harry and seconded by Petria Brooke-Carr

5. Shirley will aim to get a bank account set up with the Royal Bank of Scotland with the Dingwall branch within the fortnight. Once this has been accomplished Shirley

Anne will get in touch with Bonnie to allow the funds currently on hold in the Forest Enterprise Initiative account to be transferred to our account.

6. Julie Brewer will also make an application to O.W.L. Scotland for a Start up grant for our group. Which will comprise of

- £500.00 Kit Grant (and £250.00 per annum thereafter)
- £500.00 to host a Launch Event
- £500.00 for Network Events
- £500.00 per C.P.D. Training Events (up to 5 per annum)

All of the events must meet O.W.L. aims to be eligible for funding. These are listed below.

The Objectives of Outdoor & Woodland Learning Scotland are as follows:

### **First-hand learning experience**

To increase the use of the outdoors for learning - discovering, exploring and connecting to the natural world.

### **Learning for sustainability**

To increase opportunities to learn outdoors about the natural world and how it links to social and economic factors locally, nationally and globally.

### **Knowledge, skills and understanding of outdoor environments**

To increase opportunities for adults to develop pedagogical skills for use in a range of outdoor environments to encourage depth, breadth and progression in learning

### **Health and wellbeing**

To increase understanding of the positive impacts of learning outdoors on health and well-being

7. There are three further separate applications that can be applied for by the administrator;

- The first for £1,000.00 for meeting the cost of the administrator's work in running the group as agreed by all at the first meeting.
- The second application is for £500.00 to host an event which celebrates the Centenary of the Forestry Commission in late summer of this year.
- The third application is for £5,000.00 for a Development Officer to work for the group.

Bonnie advised the group that all applications had to be in by September 1<sup>st</sup> of each year as all groups would receive one payment to effectively manage administrative time. Upon receipt of the application, verification and approval granted the funds would then be immediately transferred to our account.

8. Bonnie suggested that in the future, the group should form a sub-committee who could look into finding someone suitable to take on the role of Development Officer and define the role that person would undertake.

9. Simon asked that everyone have a think about what C.P.D. training would be most beneficial for their setting before the next meeting. Julie suggested that the C.P.D. training offered could be based on the five areas of the curriculum and all agreed this would provide a good format. Julie will set up an on-line survey (Survey Monkey) to allow members to put their ideas forward and include the aims of O.W.L.

10. Simon asked the group if they would be interested in hosting and attending an Out-door Food Hygiene Course. The cost of the course would be £85.00 per person and need a minimum of 8 people attending to make this viable. The group showed enough interest to go ahead. The company who run the course have Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> of May and Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June available. The June date was most popular so Simon will go ahead and get us booked in.

11. Simon has also been in touch with The Creeping Toad with a view to delivering out-door literacy training to 2 schools and to have a session for teachers as well. Julie suggested that we have 2 days with schools and a session with the teachers too. The Creeping Toad charges £250.00 per day. All agreed this would be fabulous for all involved. Gordon has the following dates available 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of May available. Julie will create a Doodle Pole account (within the next week) to allow the group to express their preference of dates within this, at which point Simon will go ahead and get Gordon booked in.

12. Frederique is a science teacher at Alness Academy and is booked in to take a summer event at Evanton Woods entitled The Physics of Rockets! Simon has seen a demonstration of the power of the rocket and has suggested that Frederique take a twilight session for the group and share the experience. This was heartedly agreed upon by all as a great idea.

13. Bonnie will get in touch with the group to give us the details of an R.S.P.B. lady in Moray who delivers wonderful out-door numeracy which may be incorporated into our C.P.D training. Thank you Bonnie.

14. We will consider when best to host our North Highland O.W.L.Launch Event. Simon suggested it could be tied in with the launch of the brand new reciprocal ceilinged out-door classroom in Evanton Woods. A whole day of out-door learning involving Youth Development as well. Sounds like an amazing out-door learning celebration is on the agenda!

A.O.B.

1. Bonnie suggested that the group members all subscribe to O.W.L. Scotland through the web-site to enable us all to receive regular bulletins on the news around the groups and to keep abreast of events. Each O.W.L. group has their own page on the site and Julie will set up our page with help from Bonnie. Our page will allow us to post our minutes, C.P.D. training, events and our next meeting date. The

O.W.L. web-site also contains a myriad of information and resources just waiting to be accessed.

2. Bonnie informed the group that there is still time to enter the Scottish Finest Woods Award. The closing date is the 31<sup>st</sup> March. Please see the web-site for full details.

<http://www.sfwa.co.uk/>

There are six award categories, 10 competitions and nearly £10,000 of prize money plus fabulous trophies available to be won! The 2019 Awards are:

**Schools Award >>** Schools and pre-school projects anywhere in Scotland can enter this ever-popular award. We seek out Scotland's most fun-packed school woodland projects with prize money plus other prizes available to be won. Pupils, teachers and many helpers have great fun taking part!

3. Bonnie made a few suggestions regarding North Highland O.W.L. meetings. In general groups tend to meet quarterly and on the same date in each month of the meeting to rotate the days of the meeting to make it accessible for all. Bonnie also suggested that the meetings try to take only 1 hour and then some time can be spent skill sharing within the group. We all have to be mindful that these sessions are skill sharing rather than training. The group thought this sounded like a good idea and that we keep the meetings rotating around the schools. KY asked if it would be possible that at the skill sharing sessions that we would, then, all get an opportunity to see each other's out-door learning space. All agreed. It was thought that for the first phase of our group getting set up and on its feet that we would need more initial meetings.

A BIG THANK YOU to Bonnie Maggio for travelling up and supporting us tonight.

Our next meeting will take place at Milton Primary School on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 4pm – 5pm and our skill sharing session afterwards will be hosted by Simon looking at Fire Making.

## North Highland O.W.L. Meeting

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March

Milton Primary School

Present – Shirley Anne Stevenson, Julie Brewer, Julie Gordon, Abby Forrest, Catrina MacRae, Fiona MacRae, Kerry Dolan and Catherine Elbourne.

Apologies – Simon Harry, Jodi MacKay, Catherine Allison and Sue Coggins.

1. Julie welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. The minutes of the last meeting were read and agreed as a true record; they were proposed by Julie Brewer and seconded by Kerry Dolan.

3. Matters Arising

A)

- Shirley Anne reported that (eventually) she was able to get a bank account for the group set up with the Bank of Scotland in the Dingwall branch. Due to bank protocol Shirley has used her school address at Ferintosh and her .gov e-mail as our contact details. Thanks you Shirley.
- As a result of the above the Forest Enterprise Initiative money has now been banked and Julie has been able to process the grant applications for:

£500.00 Start Up

£500.00 Launch Event

£500.00 Kit Grant

£1,000.00 Administration Grant

Unfortunately, due to the time it took to set up the bank account, we were timed out on the Centenary Celebration Grant. Bonnie will see if we are able to still access this under 'extenuating circumstances'!

B) Julie Brewer has set up our North Highland O.W.L. group on the Scottish O.W.L. website. Julie will write up a short introduction to our group and post this on their site. Thank you Julie.

C) It was decided to abandon the idea of creating a Survey Monkey survey to establish C.P.D. training events as we had agreed on providing training which would cover 5 areas of the curriculum at the previous meeting.

These have been agreed as follows:

- Literacy – Creeping Toad; who is available for one day rather than the two days we had hoped for, due to popular demand. We have yet to decide which schools to invite, how many and how many children from those schools to be able to make the

most of the day. It was then agreed that we could offer a late afternoon/early evening session for C.P.D. for the adults. Julie Brewer will ask how many children Gordon can take per session and also find out if transport may be an issue with schools. We could look into funding/part funding transportation costs to enable accessibility.

- Numeracy – We have still to get in touch with the lady (previously mentioned) from the R.S.P.B. in Moray who had delivered an impressive session for C.A.L.A. Julie Brewer will see to this.
- Health and Wellbeing – Outdoor Cooking and Food Hygiene Course to be arranged. Julie Gordon has just taken part in this course and said it was very good and well delivered. The course cost to individuals had been £85.00, Julie brewer will find out from Simon if this has been part funded or not.
- Science – We were going to approach Frederique Lacraz from Alness academy to deliver an Outdoor Rockets Session.
- Art – Kerry has agreed to take a Willow Work session (looking at 2D and 3D art) and will get in touch with Kay Smith from Alness Academy to see if she would like to contribute her expertise in this area.

4. We will decide on our launch date and formulate a launch day programme later in the year when we have established all the initial setting up of our group.

5. There are O.W.L. meetings in Perth on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> entitled The Future of O.W.L. The 6<sup>th</sup> will focus on news from all the groups and the 7<sup>th</sup> for the Chairpersons of the groups to attend. We hope to be represented.

6. A.O.B.

A) Julie will set up a Face Book page for our group. Catrina suggested that we also have a closed Face Book page to enable us to communicate easily with each other in between meetings. All thought this was a very good idea.

B) Simon suggested that we look at providing Woodland Activity Leaders Training and Coastal Activity Leaders Training for the group. The suggestion was well received.

C) Shirley Anne pointed out that while as part of meetings it was great to have a skill sharing session at the end but a few folk in the last meeting had gotten decidedly jittery at the thought that they may be called upon to deliver one of these sessions. We would like to make it very clear that there is **ABSOLUTELY NO EXPECTATION THAT ANYONE IS EXPECTED TO DO THIS** unless they offer. We were appreciative of this being pointed out early on – thank you.

7. Date of the next meeting – we will meet again at Ankerville Nursery in Alness on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April at 4pm. Kerry will do Fairy Fires and Kelly Kettle

We looking forward to meeting up again!

Directions to Alness Ankerville Nursery.

Coming from the south or north turn off the A9 at the Alness Industrial estate turning (also signed Recycling Centre) Follow this road past the Teannich Hotel and turn right into the Industrial Estate. Drive past the recycling centre until you reach a right hand bend, turn left on this bend and Alness Ankerville Nursery is situated on the street named River Lane and can be found on your left hand side.

## **North Highland O.W.L. Meeting**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019**

**Anchorville Nursery, Alness**

Present – Julie Brewer, Julie Gordon, KY, Petria Brooke-Carr, Fiona MacRae, Sally Cameron, Jodie MacKay, Kay Smith and Kerry Dolan.

Apologies – Simon Harry, Catherine Allison, Sue Coggins, Lorna O Regan, Catherine Elbourne, Ruth Rooney, Shirley-Anne Stevenson and Catrina MacRae.

1. Julie welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Fiona for hosting the meeting at Anchorville Nursery.
  
2. Matters Arising
  - (a) All of the funding applications have gone through and been successful. Julie Brewer enquired when we could apply for next years funding and was advised that there would be a meeting at Scottish O.W.L. H.Q. later this month at which point we would be informed of available funding.
  
  - (b) Our first C.P.D. event takes place this Friday (May 17<sup>th</sup>) in Evanton Woods. The Creeping Toad (Gordon) will deliver a literacy workshop to 17 children from Hilton of Cadboll Primary School and 7 children from Milton Primary School. Gordon will then go on to deliver training to teachers and outdoor workers from 1pm to 3.30pm, It was agreed that those adults attending would bring a dish and share lunch with Gordon.
  
  - (c) We went on to look at securing dates for the next 5 C.P.D. events. It was agreed that we would set a date for building rockets with Fred in June at Hilton of Cadboll where there would be indoor space to build the rockets and the nearby beach would provide a safe and spacious area to launch them – we can't wait for this! Our Outdoor Cookery and Food Hygiene course has been confirmed for Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September in Evanton Woods. Kay will lead a willow lantern making session around Christmas time to utilise the darker evenings to better show off the lanterns. Julie will speak to Ian Patterson of Go Wild to provide some outdoor activity training when we can establish when he is available. It was decided that our Numeracy C.P.D. could be delivered in-house with all of us contributing/sharing ideas. Kerry suggested that perhaps Carrie Marshall could be approached to provide some positive mental health training as part of next years' programme of events.

3. Julie asked that all members please sign up to our Facebook page. Julie is still working on our public Facebook page and hopes to get this done in the very near future. Thank you, Julie.
4. The date of our next meeting was agreed as Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June at either Bridgend Primary School or Alness Academy. KY will provide the skill share which will be looking at Outdoor Kit for all Weathers. Thank you KY; we look forward to exploring this!
5. Julie concluded the meeting and thanked everyone who attended before Fiona took us on a tour of the nursery. We were all delighted by the tour and thoroughly enjoyed exploring a most beautiful, well thought out and child centred nursery. The outdoor areas provided all the children (age range from baby to 5 years) with a multitude of experiences including dens, tree climbing, big and small construction and lots of space to run around and enjoy free play.
6. Kerry gave a wee skill sharing demonstration on making Fairy Fires with children covering the safety and fun aspects of the activity (Petria and Fiona were her children). Julie ran over the use of Kelly Kettles, which we hope to re-visit when we have more time for Julie to actually get a brew on!

North Highland O.W.L.

Minutes from Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June

Bridgend Primary School

Present – Kerry Dolan, Shirley Ann Stevenson, Petria Brook Carr, KY, Ruth MacIntosh, Jen Smith, Julie Brewer, Fiona MacRae and Mike Smith.

Apologies – Catrina MacRae, Julie Gordon, Sally Cameron, Kay Smith, Simon Harry and Lorna O Regan.

Minutes of last meeting were approved by Julie Brewer and seconded by Kerry Dolan.

Matters Arising

1. C.P.D. events

- Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June, Science – Rocket Making with Fred Lacraz at Hilton of Cadboll
- Sunday 1st September, Health and Wellbeing – Outdoor Cooking & Hygiene Course in Contin Woods (£40.00 to members)
- Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October – Bushcraft with Alan Patterson (Go Wild) at Migdale (TBC)
- November – Withie Lantern Making with Kay Smith or Kerry Dolan in January (T.B.C.)

2. North Highland O.W.L. launch date will be set for spring of next year. Simon Harry may take over as administrator before the autumn, he will liaise with Bonnie from H.Q. and set a date. It was suggested that our launch would be an open day with lots of stations set up with activities which reflect the Outdoor and Woodland ethos and skills. We will include a Lost Words (by Robert MacFarlane and Jackie Morris) station to share the beauty and intent of this publication and how it can be used in schools and the wider community.

3. Karla Urqhart from Highlife Highland approached the group looking for voluntary help in hosting a P7 transition event for Alness Academy. Karla was keen to host a bushcraft skills session for the children. In response to this request the committee have decided that we will grant tri-annual funding for community events that promote outdoor and woodland skills sharing, knowledge building and connectivity to the great outdoors. Each group can receive up to £300.00 for an event. We will make up an agreed application form for groups to apply to us for future events. At the moment, however, we will grant this to Highlife Highland for what we all consider a worthwhile and enriching event.

Agenda Items

1. Shirley Ann suggested that we buy a metal container in which to store our O.W.L. kit. This will ensure the kit is locked up, safe and that members can access the kit when required by way of a key code lock box for the key to the container. We will ask Evanton Woods if we can house the container in their woods. The containers come in at around £2,000.00 and Shirey Ann will look into this on our behalf.

3. The group will have £500.00 kit grant from this year and £250.00 next year; we will decide what kit we would like to purchase at our next meeting.

4. KY informed the group that the Woodland Trust are offering schools and communities packs of saplings for planting. These packs come in various sizes and species dependant on the area of planting. Anyone who is interested should apply now for their FREE trees and receive them in November ready for planting. Instructions on planting methods come with the pack.

5. KY took an Outdoor Personal Protection Equipment skills share after the meeting. The session was lively, informative and delivered with panache and humour. This session included all seasons clothing/kit for adults and children who were hill walking, mountaineering, camping and bivviing. Thank you KY for the time you spent both preparing and delivering such an enlightening session!

Next Meeting

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September (TBC) at Ferintosh Primary School. Simon or Kerry will do a Knots Skills Share.

North Highland O.W.L. Meeting  
Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 4pm  
Ferintosh Primary School

**Present** – Julie Gordon, Shirley Anne Stevenson, KY , Simon Harry, Gregor Comrie, Karla Urquhart, Kerry Dolan, Sarah Houston, Kate Flaxman and Murray MacBean.

**Apologies** – Julie Brewer, Catriona MacRae, Fiona MacRae, Lorna O Regan, Petria Brooke-Carr, Susan Coggins, Katherine Elbourne, Sally Cameron and Catherine Allison.

1. Simon welcomed everybody to the meeting.
2. The minutes of the last meeting were recorded as a true record and proposed by Kerry Dolan and seconded by Shirley Anne Stevenson.

**3. Matters Arising**

**(i) C.P.D. Events**

- The Rocket Making event was cancelled due to too few being able to attend and will be rescheduled when more folk are available.
  
- The Outdoor Cooking and Food Hygiene course held in Contin Woods on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September was a great success. Thanks go to Simon for setting up tarpaulins to keep us all dry and the Forestry and Land for preparing the site for our course which was beautifully strimmed. We all enjoyed a very lively and informative course in the picturesque woods. Julia MacKay, Lorna Ross and Catherine Busson delivered the course with professionalism and a fair sprinkling of humour. We all had a 4-course lunch of baked filled pitta breads vegetable soup, chicken and the best Dutch Oven baked brownies a campfire ever met!
  
- Our next C.P.D. course is with Ian Paterson (not Alan as I had recorded in the last minutes – apologies) owner of Go Wild Highlands is hosting a bush craft session in Migdale Woods. We will meet in the woods at 10am for another NHOWL adventure.
  
- Kerry and/or Kay will host a Withie Workshop in January where we will make Withie lanterns to light our way on the dark nights.



boundaries and Simon suggested using a rope boundary around a raised fire bowl for safety and ease of use.

Julie G, Kerry and Shirley Anne will get an art kit order together – gel printing, withies and wet strength tissue, glue, clay and tools, white material for leaf printing and A3 work boards. If anyone would like to add to the list please let us know.

Julie G suggested that we double our kit so that we could have kit readily available to Sutherland and Caithness. It was agreed that this should definitely be looked into if there is sufficient interest in the north of our area.

Simon is looking at ordering Armour Guard storage units (about the size of a wardrobe) which can be securely bolted to a wall and be locked. Karla and Simon will approach Ian Goode from Highlife Highland to see if it would be possible to house it in one of the sports centres for ease of access for all of us. We would then look at operating a signing in and out book system.

## **7. North of North Highland**

Simon will get in touch with Forestry and Land and see if we can host a meeting in Lairg to meet up with people interested in joining from the north of our area. It is too much to expect folk to travel to Ross-shire to attend meetings from Caithness and Sutherland.

## **8. Grant Application to OWL Scotland**

We do not qualify for further funding as our balance is over £3,000.00.

## **9. Milton Woods**

It is believed that Milton Woods has reverted to The Crown Estate Scotland. This had formerly been a thriving and well managed community woods in our area. We will consider if we can be positively involved in the current state-of-affairs regarding this treasured woodland.

## **10. Outdoor Courses and Training**

Simon has been approached by several schools in the area to deliver outdoor courses and training. He has been approached through OWL and will work as an individual with OWL honouring the arrangement. Julie G asked about a pay structure regarding this type of arrangement and Simon thought it was up to the individual approached to negotiate their rate of pay dependant on what the course/training entailed and the level of expertise they had to offer in each case.

11. Alness, Invergordon and Tain are keen to offer their students Forest and Outdoor Learning. Mike Brady (a Forest School Trainer) is currently delivering this programme in schools in Lanarkshire. The first 5 levels of this course can be delivered to 12/13year olds in 8 units. The combined units are the equivalent of a National 5 qualification and can be delivered by a Level 3 Forest School Leader. The course work provider would be the Forest School Training Company and the

cost to the school would be £30.00 per child plus the cost of the trainer delivering the course. This is an Open College Network accredited course.

## **12. Care and Learning Alliance**

Murray MacBean from C.A.L.A. joined the meeting tonight to talk to us about research he is involved in regarding the transition of nursery placement hours from 16 funded hours per week for pre-school children to 30 hours per week. Murray explained that this increase is going to put a huge strain on the current infrastructure in terms of staffing, space, resources and time. Murray is part of a research team (working with NHS Highland, Highland Council and Skills Development Scotland) looking into alternative and innovative ways of delivering nursery education in relation to the changes.

Part of this research involves alternative spaces including woodland, wildlife parks and large estate gardens such as Inverewe. As C.A.L.A. is not covered to deliver taster sessions in outdoor environments they are looking for outside organisations such as Community Woods and O.W.L. groups to provide this. A paper will be published next February/March and our group will be included in the report.

## **13. Skills Session**

Kerry led a wee knots sessions at the end of the meeting; focusing on handy knots for tarpaulin shelter building. Kerry avoided the bowline, Gregor promised to teach her, Sarah was thrown in the deep end and Simon had KY in rope handcuffs!

It's official – knots are fun!

## **14. Dates for Your Diary**

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October – C.P.D. with Ian Paterson of Go Wild Highland at Migdale Woods from 10am – 1pm for Bush Craft Fires and Tree Identification

(get in touch with Julie Brewer to book; [nhowlgroup@gmail.com](mailto:nhowlgroup@gmail.com) – it's free!)

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November – South Highland OWL Networking Day

Outdoor learning through the seasons: Sharing and Developing Good Practice

(this is a great day for those that haven't attended before)

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November – Next Meeting at Ardross Primary School at 4pm - the skill session is Gel Printing

## N.H. O.W.L. Meeting

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Ardross Primary School

4pm – 6pm

Present – Julie Brewer, Julie Gordon, Petria Brooke-Carr, Kerry Dolan, Shirley Ann Stevenson and Gregor Comrie.

Apologies – Simon Harry, Catriona MacRae, Fiona MacRae, KY and Lorna O Regan.

1. The minutes of the last meeting were read and recorded as a true record – they were proposed by Shirley Ann Stevenson and seconded by Julie Gordon.

2. Julie Brewer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 3. Matters Arising

- Julie Brewer is stepping down as the group's administrator and handing the reins to Gregor Comrie who has agreed to take on the role. As Julie is not an office bearer it was thought to be in order that she meet with Gregor and Shirley Anne when it is mutually convenient to them both and have a hand over meeting. Julie B will explain the role and up-date Gregor on the current state-of-affairs of the group. The current rate of pay is £16.00 per hour.
- The group would like to extend a HUGE THANK YOU to the work Julie B has undertaken on our behalf since we got up and running in February.
- Gregor will get in touch with Fred to re-organise a date to host the Rocket Making C.P.D. event .
- We have agreed to set a date in January to host our first A.G.M.; we are aiming for Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> of January in the Cornerstone Café in Evanton. We will check that Simon is available before confirming this.
- We had a wonderful session with Ian Patterson in Migdale Woods where we explored, climbed trees and cooked damper bread in a fairly mess-free, bag-mix method. There are some lovely photos on our FB page to record the joy of learning.
- Simon has been in touch with Forestry and Land and they have given permission for us to host a meeting for interested folk in the far North Highlands so we can gauge interest and get accessible meetings in place. Kerry and Julie Gordon have offered to be available to attend these meetings when possible to create consistency and unity within the whole of N.H. O.W.L. as we are trying to successfully cover such a large area.
- The Milton community have held two meetings and are making efforts to set up a committee and work alongside the Men's Shed with regards to possible reinstating of the woods to the community. We agreed to keep abreast of the situation with Milton without any direct input at this stage.
- Simon will give us an update (hopefully at the next meeting) on Forest and Outdoor Learning Awards being set up in our area.
- We need some clarification on office bearers within our group hosting and being paid for C.P.D. sessions and any other sessions we fund. Julie B or Gregor will speak to Bonnie from H.Q. regarding this.

### 4. Treasurers Report

Shirley Ann reported the following: 24/9/19

Date	Expense/Income	Description	Amount	Balance
				£15,380.51
	Expenses	Cooking Course	£1,350.00	
		Event Expenses	£143.85	
		Ian Patterson	£120.00	

		Group Kit	£1,339.93	
	Income	Cooking course	£40.00	
1/11/19				£12,466.73

#### 5. Group Kit

Simon has ordered and received a lot of the hardware and Julie Gordon has made a start on ordering the art supplies. We will discuss the outstanding kit at the next meeting and get these items ordered up. Kerry and Julie G will measure the cupboard at the Averon Centre and buy appropriate sized boxes to hold the kit. It was suggested that we operate an on-line kit list and borrowing system whereby everyone can see who has the kit and for how long at any given point and be able to book and return the kit for the convenience of all involved. Kerry and Julie G will make up the inventory as they pack kit away in the cupboard. Sally, Shirley Ann and Julie Brewer have all offered to help. What a team! We will be clear that consumables such as string, card, paper, pens and paint etc. be kept for O.W.L. sessions/events only.

#### 6. Bi-annual Grants

Karla sent a short report and photographs of how the £300 N.H.O.W.L. award was spent during an event run by Highlife Highland in the October holidays to support Woodland learning.

We need to give time to discuss our bi-annual grants of £300.00 and ascertain the criteria by which we will operate. It was thought that qualifying applications could include transportation (as this is a barrier to groups accessing woodlands) and for experiences of the woodland or outdoors (paying an expert to lead an activity or experience). We could have a look at what the grant would not cover as well before being advertised.

#### 7. Funding Available

Simon advised us that there was funding available from the Highland Community Planning Partnership to fund projects of between £1,500.00 to £5,000.00 to encourage non-profit making groups to get folk into the outdoors and using our green spaces. Simon had thought that we could work with schools on this. The group discussed this and thought that this could be something for the future. We are still establishing our group and it was thought that priority should be given to getting our kit in place and providing training to those likely to borrow it; therefore utilising what we have and getting it in use throughout schools and nurseries in our area.

#### 8. O.W.L. Scotland Networking Weekend

It looks as though we are going to be well represented at our first network weekend as North Highland O.W.L.; Simon, Gregor, Shirley Ann, Petria and Kerry are all heading off in February to take part. The group agreed that we would subsidise half of the £60.00 cost of the weekend (per individual). We should send our booking confirmations to Shirley Ann to receive our £30.00 subsidy.

9. We concluded the meeting with a wee Gell printing session led by Julie Gordon and Kerry. The group found the printing fun and we were able to try out our new gel pads!

#### 10. Dates for your Diary

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February, 1pm – 4pm - C.P.D. - Withie Lantern Making (with Kerry and/or Kay)

Evanton Woods

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> of January, 4pm - A.G.M. Cornerstone Café in Evanton (T.B.C)