DGOWL Bimonthly Meeting – 8th December 2017

Forestry Offices, Mabie Forest

10am – 12 noon.

Minutes

1/ Present: John Wheeler, Jim Rae, Lesley Smith and Simon MacRae (Minutes).

2/ Apologies: Elizabeth Tindal, Tom Henry, Sara Pintado, Kirsty Griffiths and Anna Johnson

John thanked Lesley and the Forestry Commission for their hospitality.

3/ News from OWL Scotland

Everyone stated that they had heard no new news from OWL Scotland

John added that Bonnie was still looking for numbers for the National Networking Event 2018. John stated that both he and Jess and Elizabeth had booked onto the event.

The group agreed that any members wishing to attend should be encouraged to share transport and that DGOWL should contribute to the fuel cost in a form of XX pence per mile.

John stated that he will approach Bonnie to see if there are any free places for OWL groups

4/ Minutes of 07/10/17 bi-monthly meeting

a/ Matters arising – Jim informed the group that this was the correct spelling for Kaye Borthwick (In Apologies)

 Jim proposed the minutes for accuracy and Simon Seconded

5/ 2018 Environment Fair special Meeting 4th November

Simon read through the minutes of this meeting and updated the group on the above event.

There was another meeting involving E Tindal, T Henry and S MacRae that involved meeting the new Student that will be helping out with the Environment Fair. Jenny Forsyth will be working with Elizabeth and Tom. She is very enthusiastic and happy to get involved. She liked the idea of using social media to publicise the event and to go out and meet the groups and stall holders.

JW asked about catering, if there was no one from the University able to run the catering could we approach Fair Trade.

**ACTION – to be added to agenda for next Sub group meeting**

6/ DGOWL Educational Programme – News from sub-group meeting 04/11/17

JW discussed this meeting and stated that the group cannot receive and OWL grant for an administrator.

JW has approached some companies for quotes and can find someone to do it for £10 p/h.

Lesley Smith suggested that could it be publicised that an OWL group member take on the role and suggested that the OWL group could give schools a list members that best fit the needs of what is requested by the schools.

JW added that this is similar to what is done at the moment and the OWL group and the administrator could be the one that seeks out the members.

LS asked if we could apply for external funding to assist schools and enquired about the current funding allocation.

SM explained about the Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) that is given to all schools by the Scottish Government. The allocated money is linked to the amount of pupils on free school meals so each school will have different amounts to spend on different projects, each school will have their own agenda, he knows that schools are purchasing equipment, installing sensory rooms and employing extra staff members to assist with this.

Action – for next sub group meeting;

List of facilitators interested in delivering programme

Publicising programme to schools

Decision to employ external administrator or a member of OWL group

7/ Project News from Members – Brief updates on new developments

Jim Rae – introduced a new event for 2018 – Woodland Fair 19th May (Saturday)

It is a 30th Anniversary of the nature reserve and JR hopes to have an array of community groups and workshops involved on the day. There was a successful celebration at the 10 year anniversary and JR hopes to have a similar set up with stalls and workshops taking place throughout the day and around the reserve.

**ACTION – to be placed on agenda for the nest OWL group meeting to discuss if OWL can have an input or if OWL group members would like to be involved separately**

Simon MacRae – Introduced new Forest School company – Wonder Woods Education – and stated that it was a small family run business encouraging more young people and adults to get outdoors. The project is in its very early stage but he has had interest from a number of schools and groups to offer Forest School programmes.

8/ AOBS – Nothing noted

9/ Skill share – Jim, John and Simon had a wonderful afternoon making Winter Punch

10/ Skill Shares 2018

Nothing was confirmed - John stated that he could pencil in Allanton for 08 August 2018 and Jim Rae added that he could offer a Fungi session in October.