Dumfries and Galloway Outdoor and Woodland Learning Group

AGM

Tuesday 8th October 2019

**Minutes**

1 Welcome and Apologies

Present – Jim Rae, Elizabeth Tindal (Chair), John Wheeler, Jessica Wheeler, Libby Welsh, Tom Henry, Simon MacRae (Minutes), Mary Grant

Apologies – Lesley Smith, Marianne Stevenson, Shalla Grey, Anna Johnstone, Kaye Borthwick, Jenny Stephenson, Kirsty Tomlin, Lusi Alderslowe

**2 Chairs report – Attached**

**3 Treasurers Report – Attached – some points queried**

**4 Election of Committee Positions**

Tom Henry proposed that all committee members stay in place

Jim Rae seconded the proposal

All agreed

It was added that Johanna Wright will be included as a communications officer on the committee.

5 Update from Members

Libby Welsh, Include us, charity involved with raising £450,000 to convert Catherine Street playpark into an inclusive play and learning environment. A community asset transfer with a 20 year lease. The project started after the re launch of the Dock Park which was deemed non inclusive, the Usual place had opened next door and Catherine Street Park was in a great location to offer inclusion for all ages. There will be substantial play equipment, raised beds with local nurseries looking after sections, a sheltered area and bothy. As part of tree planting week and coinciding with the opening of the park they will be planting native trees in the park to replace some of the ones removed.

Will be opening towards the end of the year. There could be opportunities for OWL to be involved in projects.

John Wheeler – Helps out at Allanton Peace Sanctuary Forest School and gardening. Enjoys being outdoors and learning personally and with grandchildren. Interested in rewilding and could do more permaculture. Has been busy this year, overwhelmed by the harvest.

**Elizabeth Tindal – Freelance Ranger**

Very busy term, working with Drummore Nursey making a water wall from recycled materials with a marble run/sand option

Stranraer Oyster Festival – making musical instruments from recycled goods

Kirkcudbright Kite Festival – making creative crafty arty activities and kites made from plastic bags.

Biosphere trip to Finland – Eco tourism

Winter activities will include stargazing, darkness activities, well being and adventure podcast.

**Jim Rae – Eskrigg Nature Reserve**

Working with all ages from nursery to secondary

Assist with the delivery of John Muir Awards and DofE experiences

Links with School Curriculum with local schools and schools from outwith the region.

Accessible on the local bus route

Offers an adult programme including activities – pond dipping, tree planting, mini beast hunt and small mammal trapping. Accompanied with printable worksheets specific for the woodland.

**Tom Henry – Southern Upland Way Countryside Ranger – DG Council**

Historically ran Forest School activities in the region and was involved in delivering training to education staff

The job is still new and job description still up in the air but he is hoping to get back working in Outdoor Learning including working with the communities close to the SUW and Annandale Way.

**Mary Grant – Sandside Garden Project**

Working with the community growing vegetables, making walkways and raised beds. Links with the Eden project and was suggested that the organisation could link with Incredible Edibles

**Simon MacRae, Wonder Woods Education**

Full day activities during the summer holidays.

Regular Forest School sessions during term time for primary aged activities.

Links with other organisation including Include us

Delivery of woodland activities with Schools

6 Projects - See attached notes

Science and Environment Festival – members agreed that the S and E Festival should be all outdoors with those stall holders wishing to be indoors then they can use the Easterbrook Hall. The team can look into marquees with the following options available – local scout/guides, council, Dumfries Farmers Market.

Find out if the caterers can still do outdoors

7 AOCB

Jessica suggested that we could organise a networking day for members, family type picnic event instead of summer OWL meetings.

Libby – joint funding applications for future events

Go – Wild

Elizabeth and Lusi delivered a large project in Stewartry for pupils transitioning into secondary school. Pupils gained John Muir Awards. The organisers a looking for 1 group to deliver all for future events – this could be OWL.

Date and of Future Meetings

8th December – Crawick

8th February – Calavaerock tbc

8th April – Include Us – Catherine Street Park

8th June – World Oceans Day – Somewhere by the sea

8th August –

8th October – Allanton tbc

**Skill Share**

Simon and Elizabeth delivered the second part of the Risk Assessment and Leave No Trace session. Tom, John and Jim attended.