**Greater Glasgow OWL 26.02.15**

**Present**

Kim

Morven

Deborah

Chris

Tom C

Tom G

Eilidh (Dams to Darnley Country Park Paths, soon to be with Woodland Trust)

1. **Minutes from last meeting**

Recapped.

1. **Grant Applications**

Applications for three grants will be submitted today. We went over the content of our applications again and all were happy that they be submitted as they are. The total figure we are applying for from OWL Scotland is £1300.

Unity Trust have contacted Chris asking when we will be putting money into our new account. All being well, some funds will be deposited in the next two weeks.

Kim has been able to locate the money held in the previous FEI bank account. There is £500 which can be transferred straight into our new account. It appears that there are no stipulations or limitations on how this is to be spent. Kim will be meeting with Alan Kain to arrange the transfer.

The bank account is now active: Tom and Chris have been sent PINs, but no bank cards as yet.

The money we are applying for though the Launch Event, CPD and Admin grants has to be spent this calendar year. We previously discussed having banners made for our group to use when we have our launch or attend other events, but Bonnie has these already, so we don’t need to allocate any of our own money for this.

We discussed whether or not we would pay ourselves for delivering workshops etc. with any appropriate funs we raise. There is clear concern about the potential conflict of interest here, however it seems that other groups do this with the full knowledge and approval of OWL Scotland. We have agreed to talk to Bonnie and Mike Brady about this. Kim will be in touch with them.

Eilidh has salaried colleagues in the organisations she works for who she believes would volunteer for us as part of the outreach work they are obliged to do in their roles.

1. **Launch Event**

We looked at the ideas sheet put together by Matt. Chris mentioned that although not included on the sheet, he could run a bug-related session at our launch.

We reaffirmed our intention to hold the launch event on a Saturday afternoon – most likely in May or June (see AOB section), and we discussed a number of external people we could ask to come along to lead demonstrations or workshops. Some of the ideas we have had seem, on reflection, to be more suited to a teachers’ CLPL/CPD event, such as Maths in the Woods.

Jan McCormack of Forest School and the Highland Mobile Toy Library was suggested as someone not mentioned who could lead woodland maths sessions. HMTL used to run very successful sessions called “Messy Maths” for schools.

Claire Hewitt was also recommended as someone who could be asked to deliver Tree Stories sessions.

We went over who the launch event is for. The CPD event is for teachers and professionals in education, but the launch event needs to have a wider reach. We reiterated that we need to bear in mind that we want individuals, families, people from the Home Schooling network, local arts groups etc to feel that we are open to them, available to work with and useful for their purposes.

We also discussed the need for a mixture of demonstrations and workshops at the launch. We need to show some impressive demonstrations to give some sense of ‘spectacle’ but also demonstrate and teach more achievable skills and ideas that anyone can go away and do by themselves.

Tom G gave out diagrams for “The Jumbo Bowdrill” which we all agreed was a high-impact activity to draw people in and get them involved at the launch event.

Kim and Tom discussed the structures they have in mind for the launch event. When choosing the activities we will host, we need variety in order to cater to the different experience levels of the people we hope to attract.

We need to work to further clarify the aims and ambitions of our cluster group. It is important to raise awareness that people can apply for funding through or with help from us. We also briefly mentioned again the idea of an equipment library that people could borrow from in order to run their own sessions, or do their own work.

Tom also suggested that perhaps we are too Toryglen-centred at the moment. All of our meetings have so far taken place at the Community Base, and we have only discussed using Malls Mire for our launch and CPD events. As we are a group to represent and work for the entire area of Greater Glasgow, it would make sense for us to be more present in other parts of the city, not just the southside.

Kim is asking Lindsay at Pollok Country Park about the possibility of our holding the launch event there. If we can do this, we would like to hold our next meeting there in order that we can plan the logistics of the event more easily.

1. **CLPL ‘promotion’ and logistics**

We agreed to discuss this further at a future meeting as most of today was taken up by discussion of the launch, and the CLPL day should only be held after the launch.

1. **AOB**

In order to use woodland sites other than Malls Mire we will need to apply for fire permission – as it seems that having a fire is fairly crucial to much of what we plan to do.

The official launch event for OWL Scotland is taking place in Edinburgh at the Royal Botanic Gardens on Friday 24th April. This is a free event, and it would be great if we could all go as a group. We decided that it would make more sense if our own launch event was held sometime after this. We may be able to hire a minibus to go to the event, otherwise we can get the train together and go as a team to represent our group, network and pick up ideas.

Fred is no longer able to run our social media/communications. Morven will take over on this front. Tom will speak to Fred in order that Morven can have access to the social media accounts that have already been set up.

**Our next meeting will be on Thursday 2nd April from 4pm until 6pm, most likely at the Stables at Pollok Country Park.** This will be confirmed by email once Kim has spoken to Lindsay.