

N.H. OWL Minutes

2nd July 2020

4.30pm

Zoom Meeting

Present – Gregor Comrie, Julie Gordon, Shirley Anne Stevenson, Julie Brewer, Ian Paterson, Bonnie Maggio and Kerry Dolan

1. Kerry welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Matters Arising

Up-date on helping Milton Community Woods (MCW).

(i) Kerry informed the group that as we were not in a position to give the MCW the previously proposed loan and donation, that Simon had sent them a letter with an alternative proposal. Simon explained our situation and that in light of this, that we would be able to receive an invoice from them for the use of the woods and cabin which would then cover the sum needed for the MCW to pay the fine incurred on their bank account and subsequently unfreeze the account. At this point we would then be able to invoice MCW for consultation work given and receive the money back into our account.

(ii) Simon got in touch with Forestry and Land Scotland to find out if there were any caveats attached to the money we inherited from the Forest Education Initiative. Hazel checked the historical account and advised that there would be no caveats attached to 75% of the money we inherited.

3. Julie and Kerry updated the group regarding the Green Health Home Packs. They have produced 3 different brochures of activities for children aged: P1 – P3, P4 -P7 and for secondary aged children. They will not put an age on the brochures but distinguish the difference by using different animals on the front. Kerry and Julie received permission from John Woodcock to use one of his Owl in a Tree illustrations for all North Highland OWL resources.

All the packs will contain beautiful identification sheets for birds, bugs, beach shells and birds and trees, 4 plant pots, compost, salad seeds, bird seeds, a magnifier (handheld for youngest and progressively better unfolding magnifiers for the 2 older groups), sketch pads, pencil, sharpener, rubber, activity brochure and string cut to the correct length to undertake the activities in the corresponding brochures. The youngest age group also receive crayons for bark/leaf rubbings and coloured pencils to draw what they see in nature.

Julie asked Bonnie if OWL would have any OWL resources that could be donated to the packs. Bonnie said she would make a few phone calls and see if she could get hold of some Wee Green Fingers packs for the youngest age group and Woodland Activity packs for the other packs. Julie said she would be prepared to collect any resources Bonnie could secure for us.

Highlife Highland will work with Action for Children and the Schools to get the packs distributed; the primary school children will receive their packs during the school holidays and the secondary children will receive their packs when they go back or through the Youth Development Officers as we had no feedback from the secondary schools before they went on holiday.

4. Kerry asked Ian if he would consider taking on the role of liaison officer for N.H. OWL as he is based in Sutherland and has experience with working with some of the northern schools. We are keen to reach and work with the far north and have them included in our C.P.D. events. We recognise that distance is a barrier to attending events based in Ross-shire and are keen to organise events in Sutherland and Caithness.