

Minutes of the MORAY OWL Group Meeting

Online

29th September 2022

Apologies: Ged Connell

Tracey Robbie

Zoe Sills

(FYI - action to be taken is in bold type)

1. Introductions
2. Previous minutes – Chris gave in service days as 14/15 Nov, 11/12 May 23, 14/8 Aug 23.

Neil has provided contact details for Steven Hutcheon, the Grampian Conservator for Scottish Forestry and **NC will send him minutes of this meeting**.

Natalie had contacted Moray Wellbeing Hub but courses are not specific enough to nature and forests for CPD grants to be used.

Natalie contacted Iain Patterson to ask about providing CPD but he didn’t feel he could provide any more than we already have among our membership.

1. Grants – we were successful in our grant applications and decided as follows –

* Administration grant - £1200
* Networking event grant - £700

Joint networking event with OWLNEG at Alder Croft, Huntly on 25/3/23

Moray OWL to provide 2/3 2 hr workshops – members who are interested in providing these to send workshop suggestions to [morayowl@gmail.com](mailto:morayowl@gmail.com) by end Oct. Grant guidance pay rate is £150 per workshop with 45p mileage. Committee to decide with Julia Mackay a good range of workshops and splitting funding.

* CPD grant 1 – £550 – agreed Using Nature as a Resource to Support Mental Health

N4H providing workshop on 18/11/22. **RM to send details to Natalie by end of week to get in bulletin. NC to add to website and FB**

* CPD grant 2 - £550 – agreed 2 half day collaborative workshops at Blairs Loch 1. Practicalities of outdoors (Julia Mackay) 2. Nature games & ideas (Dan Puplett) on 15/4/23.
* Kit Grant - £500. **NC to send list of agreed kit to AS to purchase**. **Chris will make revised kit list available to schools and NC to add as file on FB page.**

1. Procurement Policy – the template sent by Eilidh Malcolm was discussed and agreed. **NC to make changes to Moray OWL and send to Scottish Forestry.**
2. OWL Scotland Facebook competition – group were reminded about the competition, now open until 24/10/22
3. NatureScot ‘Nature Discovery Map Scotland’ – group were given information as follows - Nature Discovery Map Scotland (NDMS)

NatureScot are working with Scottish Government to develop a resource for schools and other education settings to help them map the nature around them. The ‘**Nature Discovery Map Scotland (NDMS)’**aimstohelp schools learn about local biodiversity, promote Learning for Sustainability, and contribute to the National Education Nature Parks initiative.

We plan to work with education settings to co-design, build and test an education toolkit for the Nature Discovery Map Scotland (September 2022 – March 2023). We will thenreport back to Scottish Government in spring 2023. After this we hope the new NDMS toolkit can be rolled out nationally for wider use by education settings.

For further information, please see the [**Nature Discovery Map Scotland**](https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/young-people-learning-outdoors-and-developing-skills/nature-discovery-map-scotland) webpage.

**NatureScot invites schools to get in touch with ASAP if they want to find out more and take part**(contact details are on the webpage).

1. Junior Forester Award – group were made aware of the new award, more details - https://rfs.org.uk/learning/schools-and-outdoor-ed/junior-forester-award/schools-edition-junior-forester-award/
2. OWL resources – group were made aware of OWL resources – Chris is going to take them and distribute to schools
3. Holly Wilmott from Learning Through Landscapes gave update on Forest Kindergarten subsidiary course being held at Abriachan. See OWL Scotland website for details.

Natalie advised all those that want their activities shared on the Moray OWL Facebook page to send details to the page or [morayowl@gmail.com](mailto:morayowl@gmail.com).

Neil Theodoreson from Forest & Land Scotland shared that those at a senior level are becoming very concerned with the level of wildfires and camping fires. They re going to be taking a hard line and are even questioning permissions given for fire in a firebowl off the ground. He warned to be very careful and make sure you have permission in place. Please also seek permission for land use for although they are very supportive of outdoor learning if you have permission in place, you will be informed of any events that may impact on the area you want to use.

1. In the spring the group would like to hold a Shed Introduction event – showcasing all the new kit and adding hooks/shelves for better storage.
2. Next meeting will be 12th January 5:30pm, via Zoom.

N Campbell

Secretary

Moray OWL Group