

Minutes of the MORAY OWL Group Meeting

Transition Town Gardens, Forres

30th March 2023

Apologies: Eleanor Foster

Present: Ruaridh Milne

Alan Smith

Natalie Campbell

Ged Connell

Dan Puplett

Julia McKay

Zoe Sills

Chris Gransden

Daniel Lacasta

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

1. Introductions
2. Action points from previous minutes – all actioned and agreed
3. Joint Networking Event evaluation was very positive and Julia has created a report for Eilidh. We agreed having extra bodies out with workshop leaders helped to keep things running smoothly. Feedback on social media was very positive and workshop leaders agreed the venue and organisation was good. Eilidh’s thanks were fed back to the group.
4. It was agreed that a joint event with South Highland OWL would be good, Juliet Robinson is the contact. Dates in Sept/Oct. Moray OWL have funds remaining available. We could run 2 workshops each, possible locations discussed were Loch of Blairs, Dyke Village Hall, Brodie, Marcassie Farm. **NC to go back to Juliet with agreement**.
5. CPD event Loch of Blairs, May 23. Agreed date 12/5/23 – 2 workshops run by Julia & Dan. Julia will check availability of venue [this has since been confirmed as available and free of charge, as meeting their aims]. **Julia will make a poster. NC to share with Chris to be circulated to schools and Hazel Sly to be circulated to nurseries. Dan to send blurb for poster to Julia**
6. Special Teacher Grants – we discussed the requirements and consequences of not complying. **RM, DL & JM, ZS to send Eilidh the venue and date information required for their funding.** All agreed that invoices will be sent to AS for payment at end of project. Grant recipients are responsible for also ensuring evaluation report is completed within a month of completion as well as all other requirements as per Eilidh’s email. The group discussed how to implement the conservation requirement – Ged may be able to help with tools for tree planting. Can also include tree removal, nest boxes, path management, litter picking
7. Kit purchase – **AS to organise**
8. Bank Account change – going to change bank account to alternative – discussed ethical banks. **AS to organise**
9. Secretary role – NC to step down from secretary role with effective 30th April. Discussed the various responsibilities and agreed that these could be shared. Zoe Sills was nominated by Ruaridh and seconded by Daniel and so will take up the role of secretary from end April. Alan forwarded thanks to Natalie for her contribution to the group in the post for the past few years.
10. AOB – chairs online meeting – RM has responded to Doodlepoll to fix a date

Admin Form and Constitution need updated and returned to Eilidh by the end of the month – **NC will update and send to others for signature**

Women in Forestry – grants through Skillseeder, email with information has been sent, JM has added the FS training and food hygiene to the website and had enquiries through this.

AS gave information on new research from Scottish Government Outdoor Learning Group on the amount of time children spend in the outdoors at school. The results are not good and worse than previous research. This may be of interest when pitching your services to schools. **AS will see if he is able to share the research yet**.

1. Next meeting will be 28th June 5:30pm, at the shed.

N Campbell

Secretary

Moray OWL Group