

North Highland O.W.L.

Google Meet

Committee Meeting

Thursday 4th June at 4pm

Present – Simon Harry, Gregor Comrie, Kerry Dolan and Bonnie Maggio

Apologies – Julie Brewer and Shirley Anne Stevenson

1. Simon welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked Gregor for setting up the meeting and checked that everyone had read the minutes of the last meeting (Monday 2nd March 2020).

2. Matters Arising

(i) As a group we are all dedicated to assisting the Milton Woods committee in having the woods returned to them and run by the local community. With help from Bonnie we discussed how best to approach this. Bonnie and Sally (H.Q.) have made it clear that we are unable to use any O.W.L. funding as either a loan or donation. These funds have a clear purpose when applied for and we, as a group, are bound by this. O.W.L. Scotland must retain a clear and legitimate audit trail.

After much discussion, a way forward was found. Simon (through O.W.L.) will be invoiced by Milton Woods for the use of the woods and cabin for sessions (F.O.L.A. and Branching Out) he has previously undertaken. This will generate the money needed by Milton Woods to allow them access to their currently frozen bank account.

Following on from this initial payment, there will be no further charges made to OWL for use of the wood / cabin. Milton have agreed to cover the costs for previous pro bono work undertaken by OWL, this will be accessed through funds in their account once unfrozen. An agreement for this payment will be sought in writing by S.H from Milton woods.

Action Simon will get in touch with Joanna from Milton woods and set this plan in motion. Bonnie suggested that Simon should also get in touch with Hazel from Forestry and Land Scotland to ascertain where the money N.H. O.W.L. inherited from the Forest Education Initiative came from. In doing this we can establish if any part of the money was historically specific funding/grants and if so, are there are any caveats attached and find out what they are.

(ii) Due to Covid 19 we have now rescheduled the Creeping Toad to deliver his Outdoor Literacy sessions in September. We are unable, at the moment, to fix a date for The Safe Use of Tools training. Simon suggested that we get in touch with Highland Council and ask them what assistance we can provide to schools and nurseries in our area in preparation for a return to school in August. It had been recognised that children will be spending more time outdoors as a way of managing

space and social distancing. Bonnie said that O.W.L. groups across Scotland were doing the same.

Action Kerry will find out who would be best to contact in Highland Council and get an e-mail out inviting said contact to join our next meeting to discuss what we can do.

3. Bonnie had sent out an e-mail asking that O.W.L. groups take the time to have a look at the O.W.L. Scotland website and suggest improvements. Kerry suggested the following:

That on the events link that there could be a page of tiles, one for each group, for browsers to click on. In this way browsers could see what was happening in a specific area. People may be willing to travel to attend specific events. Kerry also suggested that a localised map be attached to each group's tile.

To have a search bar on the Home Page.

That each group have a Meet the Team link to include the committee members, including H.Q. This way groups can get to put a face to a name and in turn help all groups with networking weekends or other events in approachability.

Kerry thought the revamped Resources Link was way better in its new format and thanked Bonnie.

4. Gregor has spent quite a bit of time up-dating our Group Page on the O.W.L. Scotland website; he has put up new photos, up-dated the contact and checked and posted all of our minutes. Thank you Gregor; great job.

5. Bonnie had also sent out a link to questionnaire from National Network of Outdoor Learning and implored us as both individuals and as a group to contribute to this.

Action Everyone who has not already done this – do it now please!

<http://nnolscotland.blogspot.com/p/statement.html>

6. Our next meeting will take place on Thursday 2nd July at 4,30pm, Gregor will send out the code to access the Google Meet.