**Outdoor Woodland & learning North East Group Meeting**

**Via Zoom**

**14th March 2022 2.45pm-3.30pm**

**Minutes**

**1. Welcome & Apologies**

**Present:** Joanne Evans, Neil Taylor (Forestry & Land Scotland Ranger), Julia MacKay, Jill Birch, Lindsey Duncan, Doug Gooday (Aberdeenshire Council Ranger), Stephen Reeves (Dorenell Ranger Service), John Malster, Joan Anderson, Estee Farrar, Eric Baird (Glen Tanar Ranger Service), Simon Whitworth (Aberdeen City Ranger Service).

**Apologies:** Juliet Robertson, Claire Marsden, Elaine Crawford.

**2. Minutes of previous meeting 7th February 2022, matters arising**

* **Action:** EF to email JM and JE for details in order to change bank account signatories. DG & EF are current signatories. DG/EF meeting on 16th March 2022 to sign cheques.
* Action: DG sent OWLNEG update to LD for Networking Event.
* Minutes approved by Doug and seconded by Julia.
* No other matters arising.

**3. Future direction of OWLNEG**

* A new chairperson is needed going forward. Doug to be interim chair until Networking Event at Aller Croft, Huntly 23rd/24th April 2022.
* Networking event will include a brainstorming strategy meeting to decide on the future direction of OWLNEG and a strategy document will be an outcome from this. Core members who usually attend regular meetings will be invited to this event.
* DG said he was happy to support OWLNEG members who want to do events or run training. However, it is envisaged that the group will not run large events to the public as before.
* Aberdeen City Council and Dorenell Ranger Services are support of OWLNEG going forward.
* FLS is happy to support OWLNEG running events on their land although this is rather limited at present due to storm damage.

**4. Members’ survey (John M)**

* On hold.

**5. Workshops/Events 2022**

* April 23rd/24th 2022 Network gathering - Aller Croft. As above for core contributors to meet, brainstorm and share news/ideas/skills. Bring something to share (Skill, activity, poems, songs arts and crafts etc) and food to share around a fire.
* May 14th/15th 2022 Cairngorms Nature, Big Weekend. Eric to organise at Glen Tanar, OWLS group to be one group amongst other groups and NGOs. Deeside Climate Action Group to come along to the event. Jill Birch has volunteered from OWLNEG. More OWLNEG volunteers required. **Action:** JE to send email to members. Neil to check with line manager about FLS being present at the event.
* May 28th 2022 Bird ID and bird activities for groups: Claire Marsden. Location: TBC (possibly Crathes). This could be an early morning event and breakfast could be served at Crathes café. DG to leave with Claire to organise and talk to café.
* May/June 2022. Eric Baird has been successful in his application for OWLS special grant funding to run Schools Forestry Days careers event for yr3 Aboyne Academy pupils at Glen Tanar and 2 other estates. This will be run over 3 days in 3 different estates (Glen Tanar, Dinnet and Ballogie) with an introduction in school and teacher follow-up. EB requested £700 further funding from OWLNEG in order to deliver a broader experience. This was voted on and agreed by a majority vote. EB/DG/JB to deliver the event. Dates TBC – likely to be 4-5 sessions per day. **Action:** EB to liaise with DG/JB on dates etc.
* Summer 2022. How to lead rockpool and other beach activities, maybe two events: Sarah Gosden. Balmedie for sandy beach and dune activities, New Aberdour for Rockpools. Dates & times TBC.
* Autumn 2022 (August-October 2022). How to lead a fungal event, Claire Marsden, possible venue Glen Tanar. Dates/times TBC.
* October 19th 2022. Foraging event, Dan Puplett. Suggestion locations: Loch of Blairs, Moray, Marcassie Farm or Foraging Trail, Huntly.
* John plans to run a wildflower seed collection in August/September 2022. A coppicing day for a community wood in Forgue. Dates TBC.
* Julia is organising an outdoor first aid course in September 2022.
* Jill is considering running a Freshwater Biology Day at Glen Tanar.
* Joan is running 3 story telling events in August – one is in Skye.

**6. Branching Out South Aberdeenshire (BOSA)**

* See AGM report.

**7. Finance**

* See Accounts AGM report.

**8. AOCB**

* Julia – NESOLG training opportunities coming up at Loch of Blairs. **Action:** JM to send JE report from FOLA future workshop run by Mucky Boots on zoom on 22nd January 2022.
* Eric thanked OWLNEG members for their support.
* Joan has some puppets available which members may want to borrow. **Action:** those interested to get in touch with Joan.
* Stephen – new full time ranger post being advertised at Dorenell Ranger Service
* engagement project-based events.

**8. Date for next meeting**

Monday 13th June 2022 at 7pm on Zoom. (changed from 6th June 2022 due to this being a Platinum Jubilee bank holiday)

**9. Updates**

Please send any updates to Joanne to be included. Updates received.