



## **Stroud Woodland Co-op Annual General Meeting, 6 April 2014**

### **The Museum in the Park, Stratford Park, Stroud**

#### **Minutes**

**Present:** Richard Keating (Chair), Mark Harrison (minutes), Ben Spencer (Secretary), Andy Freedman, Ruth Illingworth, Helen Keating, Annie Shaw, Geraldine Lander.

**Apologies:** Martin Large, Steve Rush, Barbara Imrie, Gabriel Kaye, Norah Kennedy, Jackie Rowanly, Ruth Davey, Mike and Perdita Dawson.

**Accounts:** The accounts, drawn up by Mark and Ben were accepted. We made a small profit of £199. We have £2679 cash in reserve which we felt was reasonable but wouldn't go far if we needed to get any contractors in to fell timber.

**Directors Report:** The Directors report (see appendix) was accepted. Points arising discussed at the meeting are noted below.

**Account auditing:** it was proposed by Ben and seconded by Richard that, as previously, we would apply the exemption to auditing of the accounts for the year 2014. There were no objections.

**Election of Directors:** Ben, Richard and Seb Buckton stood down as Directors. This is one third of the Directors (the longest serving) as per our constitution. Ben agreed to re-stand (proposed by Andy and seconded by Mark). Seb also wished to re-stand (proposed by Ruth and seconded by Helen). They were accepted without objection. Ben will continue as Secretary, and Mark as Treasurer. A Chair will be appointed by the Directors as and when needed. Ben thanked Richard for all of his work as a Director.

#### **Minutes and matters arising from last AGM...**

**Directors liability insurance:** Mark and Ben (the only directors present) agreed to continue without taking out any Directors liability insurance. This will be revisited each year.

**Share re-valuation:** It was felt that we should look seriously at the issue of re-valuing the shares to inflation proof them. This is something that the Directors will take up and report back on for the next AGM.

**Ongoing returning and selling shares:** Four people wish to sell their shares. Ben has a list of these people and will facilitate any transfers starting with the person who has been waiting the longest. We need to spread the word that there are these shares for sale. Seb has offered to publicise this through Transition Stroud, Helen through Stroud choir, and Ben will talk to Woodcraft Folk organisers. Ben will also update the offer letter.

**Voluntary Contributions:** Helen Keating and Stella Parkes were thanked for their successful approach last year. They will send out an email reminder that these are now due. Ben will add a reminder when he sends out these minutes and then again a month later. We will stay with a suggested contribution of £20.

**Firewood / woodland management sessions:** The four firewood sessions have been successful with trees felled and existing timber processed. Chain sawyers paid in extra firewood rather than cash. The brush cleared into long low-lying windrows is thought to be much more aesthetic. It was felt that we should focus any further clearing of ivy in the SW corner of the wood where we have felled trees and which faces the prevailing wind. Further sessions to be organised by Ben.

Monthly monitoring of the state of the wood has been done only sporadically. Ben and Jackie have a form which should be completed whenever the wood is checked. They will continue to oversee this monitoring. The following people volunteered to check the woods in the coming months; Andy in May, Annie in June, Ruth in July, Helen in Aug.

**Audit of Folly Wood contents:** This has not been undertaken and was deferred to next year.

**Ecology Group:** We would like to re-invigorate the Ecology group. Annie volunteered to do this. It is hoped that the group could carry out an audit of the wood.

**Further woodland acquisition:** A paper/policy on this has not yet been completed. There is an openness to the possibility of us acquiring further woodland should something suitable come up for sale.

**Review of the current activity plan progress, future plans and how to allocate our existing funds:** The plan (see appendix) was reviewed and accepted. Members to be encouraged to apply for project funding. Ben will send around an invitation for members to propose other uses of our funds. We need to keep a contingency sum in case we need further trees felled by contractors.

**Request for project funding:** It was agreed that Ben could purchase a large net for £170 for the children's (and adults) play area.

**Research:** There was a good response to email survey and good feedback from the focus groups and interviews. There is a lot of informal use of the wood that we didn't really know about. There will be a formal report which will be useful for members. We would like to have a special event when the report is completed.

**Solstice:** Ben to organise a summer solstice event which this year falls on a Saturday.

The Directors were thanked by Andy and all. Thanks were also recorded to the Museum for the venue and refreshments and to everyone who attended the AGM. Meeting adjourned!