

# National Coppice Federation Directors' Conference Call

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016

## Minutes

**Present** – Toni Brannon, Rebecca Oaks, Brian Williamson, Chris Letchford, Martin Hales, Andy Alder, Ken Hilton, Dave Jackson,

**Apologies** – Helen Waterfield

### 1. Review of previous minutes and actions -

RO asked if these were a true reflection of the meeting and all agreed they were. All outstanding actions would be covered by agenda items.

### 2. Secretary's report -

TB said that she had been told that a list of potential group members was being compiled in the North Devon area.

### 3. Treasurer's report –

Current balances - Cooperative bank - £2194-65 PayPal - £1089-52

### 4. Website report –

DJ said he had a small backlog of updates to be completed but anticipated working on it shortly. He hoped that the website sponsor would renew. When the sponsor is contacted about this he would ask if they are willing to donate a prize for a competition at the APF show.

DJ appealed for news items for the website.

There was a discussion about where the meeting minutes should be displayed and to whom they should be circulated.

**ACTION** – TB to send draft minutes to all directors for checking. If there are no replies within a week then the minutes are to be sent to all directors and group representatives.

DJ to put the approved minutes on the website as well as the AGM minutes.

### 5. Spring seminar –

CL reported that some text from the Forestry Commission speaker had now arrived and would be added to the programme.

RO said that there had been no contact back from the Woodland Trust and they would need to come off of the speaker list. (Since heard that two delegates are attending)

CI said that contact with HW was needed regarding PayPal and bank details for a transfer from a sponsor.

CL stated that expenses for SSCG members had been discussed by the committee, agreed and members asked to participate in demonstrations. Two site visits had been confirmed and there would be room in the gridshell building for six displays. There was a discussion regarding the attendance fees and it was agreed they were good value and should remain at fifty pounds for affiliated and ninety pounds for non.

CL said that the event would be limited to one hundred attendees. There was a discussion around the ratio of affiliated/non affiliated and managing this to achieve the seminar aims.

[ACTION - all directors to supply CL by the end of February with email addresses of people influential in land management so they can be invited to the event.](#)

[ACTION – CL to send DJ the updated version of the information document for the website.](#)

DJ said he can set up the PayPal mechanism on the website for seminar bookings and payments and remove Phil Clayton's details. The system will be set up to send one mail per booking to a nominated address.

[ACTION – CL to set up the nominated address and send it to DJ](#)

#### **AGM/Gathering -**

AA said he had just found out that the Sherwood Forest site would not be available so is looking for an alternative. The date was confirmed as the third weekend 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> October.

#### **6. APF show –**

RO said she had been in touch with Toby Allen and there had been discussions regarding a shared tent containing various subjects.

There will be some demonstrations including one by DJ.

Cl will give a talk subject to be confirmed.

BW asked about an NCFed information board and RO suggested a pop up one. RO is currently talking to Jason a graphic designer contact about the subject.

Thatchers' meeting – AA stated that the thatchers are sending him an agenda and he will let them know that BW will be involved too.

#### **7. Cleft stick –**

BW said that the draft is due to be completed over this weekend and will be circulated for directors' comments.

#### **8. Reports from sub-committees –**

**Promotion and publicity** – RO said that a volunteer was still needed for this position.

[ACTION – RO to write a suitable request and DJ to add it to the website.](#)

**Biosecurity** – MH said that there was an updated Ash Dieback map on the Forestry Commission website.

[ACTION – MH to supply DJ with the link to the map.](#)

**Coppice survey** – CL stated that there had been twenty four completed forms at the AGM and another seventeen had been received electronically. It was questioned whether this is a large enough number to be valid.

RO had mailed the Reading University contact and would follow this up with a second mail.

[ACTION – BW to attach the survey form when circulating the next copy of the Cleft Stick.](#)

**Charcoal** – RO said she had been working on suitable information for the website but this is not ready yet.

An email had been received from the Health and Safety Executive regarding the possibility of prosecution of unregistered smaller quantity charcoal producers.

RO had a response from the relevant minister regarding the possibility of exemption for charcoal from the legislation but it was unlikely in the short term.

[ACTION – RO to circulate the information.](#)

#### **9.AOB –**

DJ said he had a meeting with Steve Fowkes of the Forestry Commission regarding a Grown in Britain

coppice worker scheme. A workable, affordable idea had been formulated. This will be worked on, developed and then circulated.

MH asked if anyone had any experience of the Plunkett Foundation woodland project. An application is being submitted in Herefordshire.

**ACTION – MH to circulate the details of the scheme.**

AA mentioned that several t-shirts had been bought at the AGM/Gathering and the writing had come off with washing.

**ACTION – an email be sent to HW suggesting they be withdrawn from sale.**

TB asked if the final report from the Westonbirt restoration seminar is available. BW said that more relevant information had been produced since which needed to be included and this is being worked on.

**Next meeting – Tuesday April 12<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 7.30pm**