



WINDERMERE TOWN COUNCIL

Representing the interests of the communities of Windermere, Bowness and Troutbeck Bridge

Minutes of Elleray Woods and Orrest Head Advisory Group meeting: 25th April 2018 at 5pm.

Present: Dr Helen Jones (Chair) Cllrs Adrian Legge, Ian Telford, Lisa Greasley, Mike Stafford. Gary Hancox (Town Steward), Julie Hartley (Town Clerk)

Apologies: None

1. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2017 were reviewed. There were no actions outstanding. It was agreed that the Clerk will upload recent minutes to the Council's website.

2. LDNPA flood repair work:

LDNPA have finalised the flood repair work, which has been completed reasonably well. There are some improvements that should be made to finish off the work and the Town Steward has agreed to carry out as follows:

- Re-instate a safe route between the lower and upper pathways;
- Rake the new surfacing across to the foot of the wall.

3. New Forestry Commission licence:

The current felling licence has expired and a new one will be needed to progress the work in section 18 of the woods, where there are numerous larch trees and laurel that need to be removed if the view is to be opened up and the native Yew and Oak trees enabled to thrive. It was agreed that Town Steward will complete the application on approval of the Town Council.

Recommendation to Council:

That a new felling licence application is completed in the name of the Town Council.

4. Salt Bins:

The recent Winter weather demonstrated the need for a couple of salt bins along the length of the access road, for which the Town Council has responsibility. The Town Steward will install and fill them (using the Jewsons account). The group looked at images of the recommended bins, which are black heritage in design and are thought to be sympathetic to the atmosphere of the woods. They cost £145.27 + VAT.

Recommendation to Council:

That 2 salt bins are purchased and installed at a cost of nearly £400 + VAT and charged to the Elleray Woods budget (£5,000 for 2018-19).

5. Rustic Bench for Walled Garden:

The work that Town Steward has carried out on the walled garden is reaping rewards, with the area now an attractive space to dwell. It was agreed that a

simple bench should be erected in an appropriate location and that Town Steward will fashion the bench out of wood-fall in the woodland. There will be no cost.

6. Tree Management:

There is a very large conifer tree which abridges the public path and is showing significant movement in high winds. There is a risk of large branches falling onto the path and a potential danger to the public. The tree surgeon has examined the tree and has suggested cutting the top-most branches back by one third which will minimise the risk. The cost will be approximately £150 + VAT.

Recommendation to Council:

That the work to trim back the tree is ordered and the costs charged to the Elleray Woods budget (£5,000 for 2018-19)

7. Pond flooding onto private lawn

There have been problems with the pond over-flowing onto private land for some time. The Town Steward has had discussions with the land-owner and believes there is a solution that can be achieved at minimal cost, with the Town Steward performing the work and main costs being machinery hire. There is no rush for this work, as the situation has existed for some time and needs further consideration. A full costed proposal will be presented to Town Council in due course.

8. Replacement Civic Society Sign at bottom of access road:

A proposal from Windermere Hotel to pay for a replacement sign, but with advertising for the Orrest Head Bar, was discussed. This has since been rejected by the Civic Society, so will not be taken any further.

9. New leaflets:

With the improvements to the woods in recent times and the restoration of the Carriage Drive, there is a need to update the leaflets and provide the public with simple, accurate and interesting details about the woods. Dr Helen Jones has completed a first draft and the Clerk and Cllr Legge have commented on the content. However, it was agreed that the launch of new leaflets should wait until Phases 2 and 3 of the Carriage Drive are completed. Cllr Greasley agreed to speak to the current supplier of leaflets to obtain a quote for a substantial supply that will cover the next 2 years.

10. Orrest Head Summit:

Dr Jones and Cllr Legge had met with the new LDNPA rangers for the area (Dave Switzer and Marian Jones) and an LDNPA designer. The LDNPA are keen to progress Phase 2 of the Carriage Drive works, but are experiencing hold-ups from SLDC, associated with the legal permissions. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to SLDC to try to ease this along. On the subject of Phase 3, the LDNPA do have a preferred route to the summit, but this is still in discussion. There are also numerous ideas to improve the surface of the summit, which becomes a quagmire after wet weather. Any proposals will be brought to the Town Council for consultation in due course.

11. Any Other Business:

- a) The Clerk informed the meeting of a request from Catherine Smith lettings (acting on behalf of the tenants of Orrest Howe) for the Town Council to carry out fencing repairs. It was agreed that the Town Steward will find out more information and perform the work if it is on Town Council land.
- b) Cllr Greasley and others expressed happiness with the new Gruffalo sculpture, fashioned and donated by Steve Hicks. It is attracting a lot of attention and children are delighted. Steve has agreed to do some more animal wooden sculptures for the woods, which will add to the interest of the environment.

12. Date for next meetings

Site Visit: Wednesday 10th October 2018 at 3pm (meet at Elleray Woods)

Follow Up Meeting: Wednesday 7th November 2018, 5pm at Langstone House.