

## **Minutes of meeting held on Monday 13/6/22 at Balloch House Hotel**

**Present:** Sally Page, Audrey Baird, Maurice Donohue, Obua Jack, Catherine O'Hare, Ian Bain, WDC Greenspace Manager.

**Apologies:** Susan Brooks LLTNP, Gillian Neil WDC Biodiversity Officer, Marie Harvey Countryside Trust, Sylvia Morrison and Archie Wilson.

### **Summary of discussion with Ian Bain**

Ian advised that Balloch park had been awarded £2.7 million in 2008 from The Heritage Lottery Fund, this was used to upgrade The Walled Garden, Chinese Garden, pathways, lighting and to clear out Rhododendrons which had grown out of control.

Greenspace will be happy to collaborate with us.

Ian will ask WDC Community Engagement Officer to look over our Constitution when finalized.

Michelle Lynn, WDC Assets Officer, has met with Glasgow City Council to see what can be done with Balloch Castle and Slipway Café. It was suggested that the Slipway café could be marketed for private groups/community groups.

Maurice proposed a volunteer group be set up to refurbish picnic tables. Ian advised that Community Engagement are currently refurbishing benches, they could do picnic benches as well. Maurice will approach Men's Sheds Groups for volunteers.

Audrey asked Ian what the proposed work plan for Balloch Park will be considering proposed budget cuts. Gillian, WDC Biodiversity Officer will be asked to supply us with info concerning removal of invasive species. Audrey will liaise with WDC to get funding for this project.

Audrey asked how visitor numbers are calculated, Ian will get back to us.

Proposal made that WDC Communities Team could run an event in tandem with our group to promote our aims/ objectives. Love Your Parks Week runs from 29/7/22, Ian will find out if anything is in the pipeline for this.

Key stakeholders were identified as WDC, GCC, LLTNP, Nature Scot and anyone who uses the Park.

Possibility of Mountain Biking Trail being built in the park behind the Castle car park/ Coo Lane.

Maurice spoke about Steven Halkett, a teacher at The Vale of Leven Academy, who runs a show "Save the Planet" could be used at a future event.

Our Group name was decided, "Balloch Castle Country Park Regeneration Group".

Office Bearers were suggested as

Chairperson: Sally Page

Vice Chairperson: Audrey Baird

Treasurer: Catherine O'Hare

Deputy Treasurer: Obua Jack

Secretary: Gillian Clark

To be voted in at next meeting on 11/7/22.

Discussion followed on draft Constitution, Audrey will update and send out revised document as soon as available.

Tourist Information Centre to be approached to see if they are interested in getting involved with our group.

Date of next meeting Monday 11/7/22, 7pm at The Balloch House Hotel//