

Dunkeld & Birnam @The Field
 Minutes of Trustees Meeting
 Tuesday 20 March, 2018

		ACTION
1	PRESENT: Dave Amos, Elspeth Baillie, David Bee, Jim Cockburn, Robert Gunn, Sandy Howe, Dave Roberts, Linda Simpson, John Small	
2	APOLOGIES: Sarah Davidson, Maddy Hand, Raymond Simpson	
3	MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (20.02.18): These were agreed with two amendments.	
4	MEMBERSHIP: Dave Amos provided update. Membership now stands at 56 - a very good level for this time of year. The membership form is now available on the website.	
5	<p>FINANCIAL POSITION: Jim Cockburn provided update.</p> <p>Bank Balance at 15/02/18: £17,284.59 Income 2017: £7,608 Expenditure 2017: £4,813 Surplus 2017: £2,795</p> <p>The Water Rates Penalty Notice is to be cancelled and the annual water bill will be sent direct to the Treasurer from now on.</p> <p>Bank Card: No further progress</p>	
6	<p>ADMIN ISSUES:</p> <p><u>Safeguarding/ notifiable events:</u> None reported</p> <p><u>Policy File:</u> Copy of Complaints Procedure to be displayed in the shed. Folder containing all policies to be placed in shed.</p> <p><u>AGM/Harvest Supper:</u> To be held in Duchess Anne on Friday 2/11/18</p> <p><u>GROW project:</u> The Field has signed up to this project and it is open to members to participate on an individual level, as well.</p> <p><u>Local Hero:</u> No nomination to be made this year.</p>	

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7	<p>THE FIELD:</p> <p><u>Update on progress</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dung now ready to be spread before ploughing on Plot 6 • Mushroom compost now delivered. • Leeks, broad beans and cabbage sown in polytunnel. • Plots cleared of black plastic. <p>We discussed the possibility of harrowing Plot instead of ploughing, as the soil looks very clean and in good condition. The need to turn in the manure would prevent this, however.</p> <p><u>Polytunnel</u> Dave Roberts updated. Approval for construction had been received from the Soil Association. We await a final response from Perth & Kinross Planning Dept on our Prior Notification application. Once this is received we will be in a position to place order for polytunnel.</p> <p><u>Slugs</u> Strategy for management to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeping paths tidy and regularly mown/strimmed • Maintaining a clear strip of ground alongside paths • Using organically approved slug pellets where necessary • Prioritising crops where slug damage has been most common in past. • Using slug traps • Being vigilant and responding quickly to any evidence of slug damage. <p><u>Paths</u> It was considered too late in the year for any mechanical clearance of paths.</p> <p><u>Weeds</u> Agreement on list of weeds not to be put on compost heaps - dandelion, dock, ragwort, bindweed and couch grass. A bin will be provided for these pernicious weeds.</p> <p>Robert is to arrange for laminated images of these weeds to be displayed to help workers with identifying them.</p> <p>Key strategies for preventing/controlling weeds to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Careful preparation of soil before sowing or transplanting • Use of 'stale seedbed technique' wherever possible to reduce initial weed pressure on young crops 	RG

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular ‘cultivation’ with hoes to prevent weeds becoming established • Removal of weeds before they set seed • Responsibility for weeding particular plots to be allocated to teams of 2 or 3 people. • Hoes to be kept sharp. 	
8	KITCHEN GARDEN: Continuing to prepare beds as weather and conditions allow. Shallots to be planted next.	
9	FLOWERS: Plot cleared and plans for sowing in place.	
10	SELLING/HARVESTING: Sales from the gate are still going well and thanks are due to the team of people who harvest and keep the gate stall topped up. Remaining produce includes onions, leeks, kale tatties and parsnips.	
11	<p>SUSTAINABILITY/BIODIVERSITY We discussed how we might improve collection, storage and use of rainwater.</p> <p>Jamie Wylie gave an outline of his very impressive initiative to encourage local businesses to reduce their use of plastics. We discussed our use of plastics at the Field and the resulting challenges. While we felt we had made good progress in this it was agreed we should look at ways of making further improvements. One particular suggestion was to do more to encourage people to bring their own bags when buying from our stalls.</p> <p>Biodiversity and monitoring to be deferred to next meeting.</p>	
12	WEBSITE: John is working on a template to be applied to all official documents.	JS
13	<p>AOCB: Dave Amos and Dave Roberts reported on a talk they gave to members of Dalguise SWI on the work of The Field. A generous donation was received.</p> <p>Robert raised a concern that we, as trustees, could do more to ensure that our discussions at meetings are translated into practical action at the field. We agreed to look at ways of improving what is already done.</p>	
14	NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 24 April at 7:30pm. Oronsay House.	