

OPERATIONS AND PROTECTIVE SERVICE
MINUTE OF MEETING

Location: Oldmachar Academy

Meeting Date: 19th November 2018

Subject: Scotstown Moor LNR and Donmouth LNR Management Committee

Present: Cllr Sandy Stuart, Fran Small, Alexis Darg, Audrey Herriot

Also Present: Ian Talboys, ACC Countryside Officer,

Apologies: Cllr Alphonse

No	Item	Action by
2.	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting Agreed</p>	
3.	<p>Matters Arising All covered in the agenda for this meeting. AD reported that Prof Charles Gimmingham who had been a member of the Scotstown Moor Committee since it's start until the last five or six years, had sadly died in July. The committee would like to recognise his valuable input into the management of the reserve over the years.</p>	
4.	<p>Works Carried Out/Rangers Report The Donmouth birdhide had been repaired. Some of the Donmouth boardwalks have been damaged/worn out and have been repaired but it is likely that some sections will need to be replaced soon as they were getting beyond repair. There had been public events at both sites which had been well supported, Macro Magic, Dynamic Dragonflies and Woodland Experience at Scotstown Moor and Donmouth Ramble and Dawn at the Don at Donmouth. Volunteer days at Scotstown Moor undertaking gorse clearing and opening up pools for dragonflies at the north of the reserve are planned for the coming months. The Reachout Momentum group had visited Donmouth twice for a walk and litter pick. School groups from Greenbrae School, Scotstown Nursery and Mile End school have visited the reserves for outdoor learning sessions and Scotstown School helped with some gorse clearing at Scotstown Moor. The Scotstown Moor height barrier had been knocked down and temporary repairs undertaken until a new one can be installed. The stone dyke along Dubford Road that had been damaged has also been repaired.</p>	
5	<p>Land ownership issue (Scotstown Moor) Further enquiries had been made by IT to the Council planners, Asset Management and Legal services to establish the definite boundary of the Council land holding at the northern end of the reserve but with no further information to date. The neighbouring landowner of the former</p>	

	<p>MoD land had been clearing all the gorse off his land and possibly onto ACC ground where the boundary is unclear. Cllr Stuart to also raise the issue with ACC Legal Services as it is important to protect the Council's land holding. Ranger Service will continue to monitor the work on site.</p>
6	<p>Invasive Non-Native Species Management</p> <p>The work to control Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam and giant hogweed across the City was continuing. Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed were now almost cleared from Donmouth though the risk of re-establishment from seed sources upstream is always possible. Japanese knotweed has been sprayed at Scotstown Moor but continues to be present. A NE Non-Native Invasive Species project was now established working across Aberdeenshire and the city with a project officer helping to coordinate works at a catchment level. IT is part of the Project Board for this.</p>
7	<p>Future Work Programme</p> <p>Events Programme: IT handed out the winter events leaflet to the Committee and reminded the group that it was also available on the Council website. IT asked for suggestions for future events. If anyone had any suggestions for events to let IT know.</p> <p>Path Works – Donmouth. Funding from the Bus Lane Enforcement Fines has been allocated to the path improvement work from the Ellon Road bridge to Seaton Park on the south side. However, the money has not been released to spend yet.</p> <p>Gorse Cutting: The work to manage the gorse at Scotstown Moor will be continuing over the winter, mainly within the SSSI area. An SNH officer had visited the SSSI in December 2017 to assess the state of the SSSI and to make any recommendations to keep the area to the requirements of the designation. No report has been received to date. The report will influence future gorse cutting areas.</p> <p>Opening up wetland areas: The work to extend the wetland pools to the north of Scotstown Moor has been going well and attracting more dragonflies and damselflies.</p> <p>Deer Plan Work on implementing this plan is underway. All land managers with wild deer on their land have a duty to manage deer at a sustainable level. IT will be surveying areas to assess the roe deer impact on Scotstown Moor and Donmouth and other areas of the City over the autumn and winter.</p>
8	<p>AOCB</p> <p>None</p>
9	<p>Date and Location of Next Meeting: Monday 20th May 2019 7:30pm at <u>Oldmachar Academy</u></p>