
Minutes

Time	18:30 – 19:30
Date	31 July 2025
Location	Deri Woods Pump House
Attendees	FoDW: Becky Badger, Adrian Bickers, Ken Burton, Nick Burton (Chair), Robert Devereux, Rebecca Still, Rob Still LCTC: Sam Webster MWT: Lowri Geddes (for Alison Alexander)
Documents	2025/26 work plan

Friends of Deri Woods committee meeting

- 1 Apologies for absence received from Sonia and Kelvin before the meeting and from Rob Astley and Jim after the meeting. MWT were represented by Lowri as Alison Alexander was unable to attend.
- 2 Nick welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 3 The minutes from December's Committee Meeting were formally accepted.
- 4 The following actions from the previous two meetings are still on going:
 - (a) While there has been no progress on LCTC adopting the car park the council will proceed with resurfacing it anyway and have requested that the construction vehicles, currently parked on the site, are removed. Sam confirmed that painting no-parking hatchings in front of the main entrance gate are still part of the plan. There is no planned date for this work yet.
 - (b) Sam confirmed that LCTC had agreed for the leaf blower to be moved to the Deri Woods pump house store and that is still the intention. The delay was probably caused because it wasn't seen as a priority by some parties and Sam agreed to chase it up.
 - (c) Works to reinstate the washed-out path in Goat Field will form part of a funding bid. (See item 7 below.)
- 5 Nick gave the following updates:

Sam

a Storm damage.

The damage from Storm Daragh and closure of the Deri riverside path has meant we have been able to focus on other project particularly in Goat Field. The Council responded quickly to clear the fallen trees off site and we were pleased that a market was found for the timber. We did our bit to tidy the edges and now the spring and summer growth has hidden much of the destruction.

b After the clear-up we were able to install the last of the compartment markers. The vast majority of the windblown trees were in Compartment 2b which had not been thinned.

c The Restoration Plan particularly for this compartment needs to be re-evaluated in the light of the windblow.

See #7

d Washed-out path

I met with Cllr Rob Astley to look at the washed out path in Goat Field, with a view to LCTC preparing a costed plan to upgrade the drainage and reinstate the path. Rob asked that we exposed the previous drainage pipes so that he could see what was really going on. We did that in Feb but have heard nothing since. There is an opportunity to get grant funding for this work via The Woodland Investment Grant (TWIG) so the Council will need to estimate the cost for this as well as for the reinstatement of the Deri riverside path which it plans to include.

See #7

e Leaky dam

In March we rebuilt the leaky dam, it's taken a bit of a hammering in the recent summer downpours but appears to be doing its job, we recently cleared the central section to allow more water through during low flow.

f Headwalls drainage project

Apart from the washed out path there are less severe drainage issues elsewhere in Goat Field, this has led to the headwalls project that we have been working on in the last four work days. I massively underestimated how much effort this would take with the excavations being done by hand, sorry about that. Once it is complete and the path there improved, hopefully we will think it was worth it!

g Wildflower meadow

The meadow in the stone circle is developing slowly, it is still patchy because the grass growth is sparse which is probably a good thing as it's giving the flowers a chance to grow and expand. The grass around the circle has become tall and I've asked the Council if they would cut it (but not the middle).

h Finally, looking to the future: hopefully LCTC will be successful with its TWIG application, which may see the Deri riverside and washed out path reinstated and completion of the thinning covered by the current felling licence.

i Also, the Council is looking to find funding to improve the town entrance to Goat Field as highlighted in the recent Placemaking Plan.

See #9

j Finally my thanks to all the volunteers who have contributed so much and done so on a regular basis.

6 In April the 2025/26 work plan had been circulated to FoDW and LCTC. No comments or suggestions have been received so the meeting formally accepted the work plan.

7 LCTC are bidding for lottery funding via The Woodland Improvement Grant (TWIG). If this is successful Deri Woods would be recognised as part of the Welsh National Forest. (A Government programme to create a network of woodlands that runs the entire length and breadth of Wales.) The bid will include:

- a Reinstatement of the Goat Field washed-out path
- b Reinstatement of the Deri Woods riverside path
- c Thinning work covered by the existing felling licence
- d Review of the existing restoration plan and create an updated plan covering the next 10 years
- e Further ash dieback felling around the Taliesin sculpture
- f Creation of QR codes for the trees in the tree trail and other notable items in the woods

Sam confirmed that the bid had been drafted. FoDW would like the opportunity to contribute to the bid as members have extensive experience of writing successful funding bids. Sam agreed to forward the bid to Nick.

Sam

Sam explained that She, Rob Astley and Nick had met with Dafydd from TWIG in Deri Woods to explore the opportunities. Sam was pleased to have Dafydd involved. As an independent third party he was able to resolve some of the conflicting ideas which had emerged between Nick and Rob over implementing the existing restoration plan. Nick was also pleased to have Dafydd involved and clarified that the FoDW position had only been about implementing what was in the restoration plan which LCTC had adopted. Nick agreed that revising the plan with enthusiastic input from the council and an expert third party would be beneficial to all parties and the woodland.

Results of the funding bid would not be known until the end of the year.

- 8 Sam confirmed that engineering options for bridging the gaps in the Deri Woods riverside path are being reviewed by LCTC. The council is keen for FoDW to be involved in the reconstruction but the level of that involvement wouldn't be known until a solution is agreed. The use of recycled plastic, similar to the boardwalks at the Dyfi osprey project, was being considered.

As possible funding for the work was tied to the TWIG bid it wasn't possible to say when work would start and no formal announcements about the work can be made.

- 9 Sam explained that Lanfair Caereinion's Placemaking Plan included a revamp of the town side entrance to Goat Field which has been identified as uninviting and not particularly obvious. Following some discussion about the difficulty of the location, particularly the elevation change, Nick suggested that a landscape architect be used for the redesign. Sam stressed that the work had been identified as a quick fix to deliver early benefits. Minutes relating to the plan can be found on the town council website and it will be discussed again at the Council meeting on 15th September.

- 10 There were two items of other business.

- a Sam extended LCTC's thanks to all the volunteers for their work in Deri Woods. Sam made special mention of the headwalls project which will significantly improve that path.
- b Sam had noticed that the story telling seat by the stone circle was rotting away and hoped that this could be

replaced. FoDW confirmed that there wasn't any suitably sized oak timber in the woods to carve a new seat and that the large beech wouldn't be durable enough. Sam recalled that some large oak was being stored at a local farm and she would see what condition it was in.

- 11 The next meeting would be arranged for the end of November.

Adrian