

Portmoak Community Woodland Steering Group

Meeting: 17th May 2007 The Well Country Inn

Present: K.McDonnell, J.Shepherd,M.McGinnes,R.Barlow, M.Hogg

Apols: R.Barlow E.Carruthers,R.McDonnell, H.Rolton, D Batchelor, A.Bradley, MBrown,L.Batchelor

No matters arising from April minutes, KMcD had omitted to send out an electronic copy, would sent with May minutes.

Woodland Trust Update

R.Barlow advised that contractors had undertaken strimming and construction of rustic bridges within Moss. Birch Regeneration is a significant issue (L.Batchelor had also requested that this matter discussed). Chemical control will be necessary in the 2nd clear fell area, requires a number of work days. Volunteer groups have been booked in to undertake birch clearance adjacent to ditches. RBarlow estimated a pprox 500 volunteer days per annum to keep on top of this problem.

Agreed that the additional access path behind the bothy should be kept clear as per access review, this route is still widely used and therefore beneficial.Those present agreed that there would be benefit in agreeing mutually convenient date to 'walk the Moss' and assess routes in line with access review. mid-late summer.

R.Barlow to provide details of Mike Demsey who could undertake machining of large timber at entrance to site, group to agree a date mid-end summer.

Tetley Trail/Michael Bruce Way

R.Barlow has met with contractor who will undertake path improvements on Kilmagadwood, this will involve benching out and therefore machinery. WT does have right of access across land to the area which requires to be upgraded. This is likely to be costly, WT have £400 in budget, suggested that PCW write to PCC and request contribution from the Tetley Trail Account. PCW could match fund up to £250. KMcD to draft letter.

Chainsaw Risk Assessment/Task Analysis

R.Barlow provided WT model which should be used when undertaking work within the Moss/Kilmagadwood.

Leaflet Dispenser

R.Barlow has provided for the entrance to the Moss, will be attached to the PCW sign. Agreed that the sign requires to be restored during 2007.

Interpretation

R Barlow advised that this is proving very time consuming, suggested group try to take

forward locally. Perhaps local artist or through High School..

Viewpoint Indicator

No update.

Treasurers Report

£1647.03

Postcards

JS to request a sample in order we may review quality, also to id minimum print order. Ideally would have for Portmoak Festival.

Timber Community Use

R.Barlow to provide contact details for Mike Dempsey.

Squirrel Monitor

KMcD to speak to TRACKS regards biodiversity when planning round the loch route, hazel, scots pine, brambles etc.

Creat a weblink between PCW website and Perth&Kinross Red Squirrel Group. JG to advise

Community Woodland Association, further training day

There is further funding available to support training days, the possibility of PCW running another event was discussed, perhaps focussing on Fauna present within the Moss, including survey techniques, trapping mammals, red squirrel survey results, and microbiology of the bog through a 'bog laboratory'. KMcD update with Diana Campbell. CWA awaiting notification of funding bis application sufficient for 4 staff.

Next Meeting: Thursday 20th June The Well Country Inn