

**Minutes from Portmoak Community Woodland Steering Group Meeting : 16th September 2010,
Well Inn, Scotlandwell**

1. Woodland Trust Update:

Birch Clearance: SWT have completed the first section of birch clearance which has been very successful. WT have managed to secure funding for an additional 4 squad days to be completed towards the end of October, so there will be further brush cutting on the moss at that time. The plan for next year is for the squad to come in during May to spend half their allocated time on weed wiping the birch re-growth using glyphosate to kill the birch and then come back in late August to carry out further brushcutting and weed wiping. WT hope that by cutting the larger birch, and then weed wiping the regrowth the use of chemical can be reduced whilst maximising effectiveness.

Rabbit netting: This has now been replaced on steps within the Moss.

Woodfuel Survey: WT forwarded compartment details to Jon Hollingdale to help with his assessment of the site.

Volunteer Chainsaw User's

JG had received response to WT letter; passed on to Line Manager believed the email eloquently highlighted the groups feeling over the handling of the volunteer chainsaw users and the proposed way forward through BTCV. JG will be in touch once feedback available.

Kilmagadwood : School tree planting week will be 1st to 5th November.

There will be a machine in to cut the grass/weeds within this year's planting area to make it easier for school children to access, the paths will be cut as well.

WT have instructed a contractor to plant up the newly deer fenced area above the extension and this is likely to be carried out in November. As mentioned before, at the same time they will plant approximately 1000 trees in individual shelters through the gorse and bracken areas also.

WT have also requested some of the existing tubed areas be visited for some overdue maintenance.

Community Day: Circulated with the minute is a summary of WT plans so far for the community day on the 6th November. Those present agreed that route between the 2 woods needed to be signed to encourage visiting tree planting and milling operation. KMcD to contact Drumfun regards their availability and update at October meeting.

Timber specifications for the saw mill, including planks, posts, shelves, beams, rails to be agreed in advance of 6th November. JG suggested that we make simple woodland perches for people to take home, KMcD to locate a pattern.

2. Orchard update: no update

3. Land by Car Park: no update

4. Storage of tools etc. No update

5. Information Boards: Agree a design in advance of 6th November then can run off milling machine.

6. Timber inside Moss gate: This will be machined on 6th November to agreed specifications.

7. Paths Network: There will be no path across the new development, not in planning application, there is a possibility that a path can be made between the new development and the

village green. The car park adjacent to the Moss was also discussed however those present were of the opinion that a 'parish' group would be best placed to take this type of initiative forward.

8. Shooting in Moss: No update, however this is a seasonal activity so we should encourage vigilance over the next few months.

9. View Point Indicator: This should be reconsidered over the winter months, should adopt a more simplistic approach and consider locating adjacent to the bench in the Field a'bin the Kirk.

10. Additional/Renewed Dams: no update.

11. Woodfuel Resource Assessments: Portmoak Moss Assessment carried out on 14th September, copy attached. Note that all volumes figures are estimates and need further checking before a business plan is built around them. There had been some discussion around leasing back an area to harvest timber from, JG intimated that the Exxon funding generated from his volunteer activity could be used to fund insurance linked to felling/clearing activity.

12. Treasurers Report : £2067 in account.

13. Iron Horse: KMCD had spoken with a potential supplier of a Mini dumper HS400 with a farm bed, this would cost around £6,000. Can make an application to the Kinross-shire fund however would need to resolve the issue around volunteer's using powered equipment in the Moss prior to taking this forward. DC has agreed to assist in producing a balance sheet which PCW can submit alongside Kinross-shire fund application.

14. 'Making Woodlands Work': CWA annual conference 23-24 October in Callander, anyone wishing to attend should get in touch with KMCD.

15. Burns Supper Date: Hall booked for 22nd January 2010

AoB

Mgt Brown Memorial: This had not been discussed recently, KMCD mentioned that as part of the Wash House restoration project a history of the area would be commissioned, it was suggested that this could be dedicated in Margaret's memory

Next Meeting 21st October 2010