

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PORTMOAK COMMUNITY WOODLAND STEERING GROUP
Tuesday, 18 September 2012

PRESENT: David Batchelor, Louise Batchelor, Gary Bolton, Lesley Botten (minutes), Stuart Garvie, Jeff Gunnell (Chair), Michael McGinnes, Jim Shepherd
APOLOGIES: Alison Bradley, Elaine Carruthers, Karen McDonnell.

Amendment to Minutes of Last Meeting: Change Bill Kerr to Bill Carr.

ACTION: Louise to forward minutes to Jeff so he can add them to website.

Matters Arising (bearing in mind that I don't have a copy of the last meeting minutes yet)

ACTION: Gary will ask if Woodland Trust will find sponsors for new seats.

ACTION: Jeff and Dave, with Karen, will check oak stock to see how many perch seats for Kilmagad (max 4) the group can make to be installed by next spring. Note: Jeff has the drawings.

ACTION: Gary will give Michael figures for dams. Keep the issue of repair and installation of extra dams as possible project running alongside the quest for a management plan.

ACTION: Stuart and Jeff to get bog water levels data and pictures on to website by December meeting.

NOTE: Peter Matthews, Scottish Wildlife Trust will produce his report on the moss soon.

Woodland Trust update

Gary gave an update on the matters raised at the last meeting. He has secured funding for:

- removing barbed wire
- removing tree guards
- weed control.

Gary gave Shep key to the gate padlock.

DISCUSSED spraying birch versus wiping. Thought that knapsack spraying might be appropriate where birch is taller and denser. Spraying requires 4 day training course at a cost of £600.

SIGNAGE: Gary reported that the Woodland Trust have selected Kilmagad as one of several woods they want to give a higher visitor profile. WT wanted the Group's views on putting large signs in the church car park. The Group thought that whilst the church is perfectly happy for their car park to be used on an informal basis putting up WT signs in the car park would both give the public the impression that this was an official WT parking space and make it difficult to keep the space free for church service goes on Sunday mornings.

ACTION: Gary and Group members to go on site and pick best place or places to erect signs.

ACTION: Once potential sites agreed notify Community Council of intention.

Viewpoint Indicator

Gary will pass on Shep's phone number to the installation contractor so he can arrange to pick up the board.

Boginar – getting bog experts together (Friday 16th November 2012)

AGREED: The overall aim is to seek advice on the regeneration of Portmoak Moss and reach a consensus based on practical experience from other sites.

ACTION: Louise and Jeff to confirm programme for the day (no access to the Hall until 1.00pm).

ACTION: Louise to send out email invitations

TOPICS: The Group identified the following as possible topics to follow on from Introduction and a Keynote talk by Jonny Hughes (who already has the date in his diary).

- birch regeneration / water levels
- experience of moss regeneration elsewhere
- community engagement
- biodiversity, habitat, ecology
- alternative futures (what might the place look like in the future)

- funding.

PROGRAMME: Jeff to circulate revised draft timings to the Group.

CHAIRING EVENT: agreed that Louise will do this.

INVITEES: Louise/Jeff to select from list provided by SWT and Group members to forward other names. To include: Clifton Bain (International Union for Conservation of Nature), Francis Bruce (Scottish Government), Andrew McBride (skyliner, now works for SNH), SNH based at Kinross, RSPB moss expert, Kate Sankey (of West Mosside Organic Farm, Russell Anderson connected to the Forestry Commission, Fife Biological Records Centre, Eric Coull (SWT), George Lawrie(Living Lomonds Landscape Project), someone from Yorkshire Peat, someone from East Galway Bogs. An hydrologist?

ACTION: Gary to ask Carol Evans to confirm who will be coming from WT.

ACTION: Lesley to ask Helen at Lochend Farm about possibly catering the event. UPDATE: She can do it at £4.50 per head soup/sandwiches (no hot drink) for up to absolute maximum of 35 people at Lochend Farm.

ACTION: Dave to record the event which will help when producing a report of it.

Management Plan

UPDATE: Michael has drafted a brief and sent it to Alex Page of the Living Lomonds Landscape Project for consideration of whether or not to include in their Stage 2 Heritage Lottery Fund bid which will be submitted early December with a decision from HLF next March. Likely cost £10-15K.

Burns Supper 2013

ACTION: Dave will place an advert in the November issue of the Community Newsletter. NOTE: DEADLINES are for the November issue Friday 12 October; for December issue Friday 16 November.

ACTION: Stuart to ring Ann Harley to find out whether a larger advert is available.

ACTION: Lesley to check with Helen on cost for catering. (UPDATE: Spoken to Helen and she will do the meal for the same price as last year.)

ACTION: All to look for good photos of previous events and in particular of Bill Carr doing his stuff.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Christmas Trees

ACTION: Put date Sunday 16 December in diaries.

Spare piece of land adjacent to the road into the Moss at Scotlandwell

Stuart taken advice from another couple of lawyers who confirmed that it would cost the Group money to register an interest in the land.

ACTION:Stuart proposed that he would ask Brian if he could simply position the fence to leave space on the road side.

Community Newsletter

Louise had sent an article for publication.

Dead Red Squirrel

A member of the public reported to Louise that they had seen a dead red squirrel on a path in the Moss.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 16 October 2012

L.Botten
23.9.2012