

PORTMOAK COMMUNITY WOODLAND STEERING GROUP MINUTES 21 May 2013

Present: , Lesley Botten (mins), Alison Bradley, Gary Bolton, Dave Carruthers Stuart Garvie, Jeff Gunnell, Michael McGinnes (chairing) , Jim Shepherd **Apologies:** Louise Batchelor, Dave Batchelor Elaine Carruthers, Jim Shepherd

WOODLAND TRUST UPDATE

1. PORTMOAK MOSS:

Would we like to contribute a paragraph to the new leaflet about the PCWG?

Lepidoptera species records provided by Duncan. Michael & Stuart reported seeing a comma butterfly on 20 April.

SNH have asked WT for permission to carry out dragonfly surveys on the moss and will send records.

Froglife have asked WT to recommend sites for their Amphibian and Reptile Event Days and Gary has put forward Portmoak Moss as one venue. Similarly Dragons on the Move.

Unsafe trees in the section by the boggy path identified and Gary got a price from a contractor to clear with remit to make safe, clear debris, saw logs off and stack at the side. Likely to start in a few weeks. The regenerating rhododendron to be sprayed at the same time

25 June – Gary leading a WT staff training day (tree risk assessments, etc) on the moss. Lesley & Michael offered free accommodation for any WT travelling from afar.

More birch pulling to take place in July.

Hydrology report imminent and Gary will circulate it when it arrives.

Discussed the benefits again of flattening out the moss with a big machine and Gary will mention to Andrew.

Also agreed to look at budgets for 2014/15 for path renewal.

Alison mentioned an item on Countryfile which featured invisible fencing (a buried wire) in the context of grazing on the moss.

ACTION: Louise – could you write the para about us for the new leaflet?

2. KILMAGADWOOD

Planning application for the Kilmagadwood signs still being processed by PKC.

The redundant rabbit fencing has been removed at a cost of £1500.

TREASURER'S REPORT - none

LENZIE MOSS EVENT 18 April 2013

Very interesting visit and well organised event.

ACTION: ALL who have photos email them to Michael so he can put on Facebook.

PORTMOAK FESTIVAL

Gary asked for more information on Portmoak Festival exhibition and Lesley suggested that it was probably not a manned exhibition but more a static display.

The group accepted Dave Carruthers' quote for up to £75 for strimming the area in the community orchard to clear nettles and thistles for the Festival opening Sunday picnic. It was agreed that the Festival be asked to show this as a donation in their accounts.

ACTION: Louise to ask the Portmoak Festival Committee to show the cost of strimming as a donation to the Festival from the PCWG.

COMMUNITY ORCHARD

ACTION: Gary to send Louise contact details for P&G Horticulture who can supply natural fibre mulch mats.

ACTION: Dave B to send photos from the day to Mike to put up on Facebook page.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Curling Pond – Stuart reported that the Community Council want us to meet with them, the Bishopshire Curling Club and Scotlandwell in Bloom to discuss the idea of using the curling pond as a car park. Stuart will attend any such meeting as the Curling Club rep so won't be able to represent the PCWG as well. After talking about other parking solutions, the viability of restoring the pond as a pond (which would be capable of freezing over in very cold winters and being used for curling), proving ownership of the pond and so on we decided on the following action:

ACTION: send 2 delegates from PCWG to any meeting called by the Community Council.

LLLP - Result of the Lottery bid due in June 2013.

Management Plan – Jeff suggested we have another “blue sky thinking” day.

ACTION: Jeff will send round the results of the first blue sky thinking day.

ACTION: ALL – meeting on 20 August to be dedicated to staring into space (purposefully).

Bog Snorkelling / Dip wells – Stuart to bog snorkel on 25 May.

We talked about rethinking the dip wells. Do we need more? In a grid or more strategically placed?

BT Volunteers – still waiting to hear from them. They would be a good work party to dig the “drowners”.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 18th June 2013