

## MOSS MINUTES – 21ST January 2014

PRESENT: Karen McDonnell (Chair), Dave and Louise Batchelor, Gary Bolton, Lesley Botten, Alison Bradley, Dave Carruthers, Elaine Carruthers (part of meeting), Mike McGinnes, Jim Shepherd.

APOLOGIES: Jeff Gunnell

WOODLAND TRUST UPDATE: Gary reported on the Welcome sign has been erected on Kilmagad.

**ACTION: Carol will make an announcement about this at Burns Supper.**

Dave Batchelor asked what was to be done with cut down trees. A contractor will be brought in to make them safe. Dave Carruthers said there are soft areas within the path. 15 tonnes of hardcore will be brought into the woods and dumped. Gary has already budgeted for this. Dave Carruthers wishes to tender for this work.

The disintegrating bridge on the far side of the Moss will be replaced along with other repairs and renovations. Vole tubes have been removed from a substantial area of Kilmagad by Mike McGinnis and other volunteers.

Friday 21 February, he said volunteers from SEPA's Stirling office are coming to put in mini drains between the main drains to wet the dry areas of the Moss, as suggested by Andrew McBride. Gary will be present.

26 April "Bumblebees and Butterflies" with George Guthrie of Butterfly Conservation around Loch and Portmoak.

26 July Danielle Muir of the British Dragonfly Society, currently doing work at Findatie with SNH, will hold a training day on dragonfly surveying and recording for members of the public. It is proposed that it should run from 10 – 4 and be entitled "Damsels and Dragons of Moss and Loch", meeting at the SNH office at Kirgiate Park, Kinross with a visit to Portmoak Moss and the "railway ponds" in the afternoon. She would like this to be a joint venture with Woodland Trust and PCW. The suggested number is 20 on a first come, first served basis, but the view of the meeting was that the places would be filled up very quickly. Gary will email the details. He has also spoken to George Guthrie. There may be an opportunity for PCW to take donations.

Gary reported he has chatted with Andrew McBride re grant for this year for mulching tree: this will involve taking down stumps and flattening plough furrows. The area will be 11ha. (about 70 – 75% of the cleared area). There will be no herbicide control but there will be hand pulling. The standing dead trees will remain. This will take place in or around August/September. An environmental impact assessment will require to be carried out and it was noted that the community will need to be advised in advance. Similar work has been carried out at Flanders Moss and at another site. Prior to the work a training session will be held to establish which varieties of sphagnum need to be collected (approximately 2 weeks before mulching is commenced) for translocation when the mulching has been completed. Andrew McBride wants to put Portmoak Moss forward as a place at which people can see best practice. When the work takes place signs will be put up telling people what work is to be carried out. **ACTION This will be carried out at our next regular meeting and the public will be invited to attend. Gary is to speak to Wendy McPhederan, Chair of the Village Hall Committee.**

Gary said he will get the new Moss leaflets tomorrow. Some will be available at the Burns Supper.

TREASURER: £2,500 in bank. There is an outstanding bill £60 due re piano tuner.

XMAS TREE EVENT: Will there be one? The existing site is due to be mulched. **ACTION Investigate availability of other possible areas.**

BURNS SUPPER: 108 tickets sold plus 9 at high table – total 107 attendees. Dave B circulated draft programme. **ACTION Ken Robertson is unable to attend but is organising whisky. Beer is ordered. Wine is ordered and Jeff is to collect this. Initial funding of wine to be arranged. Louise is to advise Elaine of the varieties for the drinks list. Dave C has got water. Irn Bru, Diet Cola and orange squash to be ordered plus 6 large bottles of lemonade. Shep will get the soft drinks plus 2 cases of Tenants Lager. Shep will also collect ice. Ryan is managing the bar until 9.30. Staff payments are organised. Hall glasses will be used. Lager to retail at £1.50. Jugs to be collected from kitchen before start.**

**Raffle prizes – Shep will try to get some more.** The “Immortal Memory” speaker will receive a bottle of malt.

**Raffle tickets:** Louise has got these. **Karen, Louise and Alison will sell these during the event and Louise etc. will take ticket money. Lesley will arrange float for tickets and raffle. Alison will prepare form and Elaine will invite people to sign up for information about future Moss events.** Cleaners organised. Entry 1.00 – 3.00 **Setting up will be started on Friday evening 8.30pm. Dave and Louise will get out glasses. Pencils required. Leaflets and plugs for “The Big Dance” (7<sup>th</sup> February) to be placed on tables. In his Mosses speech Dave will mention the successful lottery grant but point out that Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership requires 51.4% matching funding. Waitresses will receive payment on Saturday night.**

**ACCESS:** Malcolm Strang Steel has seen the farmer and has passed on SNH advice on what is required. He will remove the notices. Louise asked Malcolm Strang Steel how long farmer should be given – 3 weeks, effectively to end of shooting season. If the problem arises again next year then more direct action can be taken.

**PATHS GROUP:** The Paths Group needs to be formalised in order to get resources. They are meeting tonight and wanted someone from the Woodland Group to attend, but no-one is available on this occasion.

**ACTION: Louise will find out from Tom Smith what happened and will report back.**

**LIVING LOMONDS LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP:** Mike reported that they had apologised as they have lost all our records and their own statements. Their new group is trying to sort things out. Fife groups have got money from Council and can get VAT back. We can neither get money from P & KC nor claim VAT back. Simon is going to visit Moss (and will be invited to meeting), Year 1 ends in August. The re-created application includes £900 for volunteer time. SNH is to be asked for £3.5k instead of £3k. In years 2 and 3 an additional £10k is to be put in. It is assumed that 51.4% will be required then also. We require 3 quotes and can choose the contractor. It is still hoped that something may be done this summer. Three public meetings (one could be a “Boginar”). **ACTION: Next meeting establish what we are going to ask of Consultant: Lesley and Mike to prepare this.**

**AOB:** Some of the dams are “busting”. **ACTION: List of things happening in Moss next year to be prepared.**

Next Meeting: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014