

PORTMOAK COMMUNITY WOODLAND STEERING GROUP  
18<sup>th</sup> February 2014

**Present:** D.Batchelor, L.Batchelor, S.Garvie, J.Shepherd, M.McGinnes, L.Botten, G.Bolton, K.McDonnell, D.Carruthers, E.Carruthers, J.Handley

**Apologies:** A.Bradley

There was general agreement that the Burns Supper had been a great success yet again, further detail later in notes.

**Woodland Trust Update**

An application for funding has been submitted to SNH for work relating to the restoration of the raised bog surface, this will involve sphagnum relocation and mulching of the surface. Drainage improvements and additional site/habitat improvements will also be undertaken, nature of works to be agreed with the group in advance. Funding application £42,660, WT to provide a copy of the funding application for info. Volunteers will be required at the start of the project (august) to undertake sphagnum re-location, works will be completed by end September 2014.

It was agreed that the nature of the site improvements should be communicated widely before works start as there will be a significant visual impact. JG suggested that noticeboards be procured to ensure community engagement, this would also highlight volunteer activities linked to works, eg sphagnum relocation and events.

Works will be planned to have a limited impact on public access. If successful funding will be made available in April 14, agreed that noticeboards should go up as soon as possible, GB to provide an indication of styles available via WT. Information should go into Kinross-shire Newsletter and also on local noticeboards.

21<sup>st</sup> February, SEPA workparty, an afternoon session additional mini drains to be installed.

WT/SNH event 24<sup>th</sup> July 2014, Damsels and Dragons of Moss and Loch, limited to 20 attendees.

**Burns Supper**

Balance sheet available electronically, generated £751.50.

JG had video of Bill Carr addressing the haggis, LB to contact BC regards posting on website/you tube.

1/6<sup>th</sup> less sales at the bar (different balance of people at event, more people driving?)  
If want to keep the ticket price the same for next year need to consider some cost reductions, eg alternative printer, electric piano.

Discussion around licence, there is a change in the law coming into force later in 2014 which we need to consider and ensure that we are compliant for the 2015 BS.

There were a few comments regarding the event itself, some tables experienced slow service in relation to the main course and equally slow clearing of tables. Quality of vegetarian

haggis discussed as was the manner in which the turnip had been presented. Previous years a whisky sauce had been served.

**Paths Group** initial meeting had been very successful, hoping to have a regular attendee from PCW, agreed that a representative would attend if formally invited for a specific purpose. Funding is in place for path management on WT property.

### **LLLP**

MMcG had drafted some initial thoughts and circulated to the group. It was agreed that this submission provided a focus for the consideration of management for the future of the site. Also that it was critical to ensure that the appropriate questions were asked by the consultants taking forward the work on behalf of the group. Questions would be focussed around options for future management of the site to support ongoing WT management plans.

Timeline for this has slipped and now in year 2 of funding, SG suggested a revised timetable was required.

MMcG had provided extensive information but unable to take forward currently, JG and LB agreed to look at information gathered to date and draft a shorter submission which would be circulated to the wider group for comment. Seeking £10k funding via LLLP.

Options include:

- Do nothing
- Status quo
- Desired minimum (WT management plan)
- Optimum vision for the site

### **Forestry Commission Community Woodland Group Research**

JG contacted via website, researcher writing case studies linked to community woodlands in Scotland. KMcd to provide additional detail.

### **PCW website**

MMcG and JG to link website to Facebook  
KMcd to send copy of PCW constitution to JG for uploading.

### **AoB**

**Petty Cash:** agreed that the sum of £50 should be held by the treasurer.

**Portmoak Moss entrance sign:** This needs some remedial works, KMcd to speak to MH regards repair. There is a prototype of the original which could perhaps be used KMcd to take forward.

### **Bracken Control**

JHandley addressed the meeting regards bracken control suggesting that the effective groups within Portmoak Parish which included PCW and both Scotlandwell and Kinnesswood in Bloom could work together to address this issue. This activity would relate to bracken above the tree line and not on land owned by WT, managed in partnership with PCW.

JH to approach land owner and come back to the group.

**Timetable of events**

SG suggested that we should build for this year and publicise on noticeboards.

- Bird walk late April (24<sup>th</sup>?) timings tbc SG in touch
- Butterfly/Moth event before works start in August.LB to contact.

Next meeting 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014