

MINUTES OF MEETING OF PORTMOAK COMMUNITY WOODLAND GROUP STEERING COMMITTEE held on 19th August 2014.

PRESENT: Karen McDonnell (Chair), Louise Batchelor, Dave Batchelor, Gary Bolton, Lesley Botten, Alison Bradley, Stuart Garvie, Jeff Gunnell, Jim Shepherd

APOLOGIES: Mike McGinness

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – Matters Arising: It was agreed that Item 3 in the Minutes of 15th July would be simplified in the Minutes to be published on the Website. **Jeff will deal with this.**
2. WOODLAND TRUST UPDATE: (1) Kilmagad: It was noted that an accident had occurred on Kilmagad about two weeks ago. Kinross-shire Environmental Award – an application has been made for Kilmagad. Judges are visiting the site on 12th September, prior to this Woodland Trust will mow paths and square in orchard. It was noted that the Heritage Trail is also in the competition but possibly in a separate section. As Gary is unable to attend, Louise volunteered to be present. **She will require to be briefed prior to the meeting:** there are remnants present of woodland ground flora such as bluebells and wood sorrel. Kilmagad is one of three Woodland Trust high status woodlands in region.
(2) Portmoak Moss: Everything is proceeding well with the necessity of achieving a balance between preserving habitat and smoothing the surface, but **the contractor will be asked if he can level the surface further.** The ditch across the centre of the dome has been infilled and it is hoped that raising the water table will prevent tree seedlings from growing. People are wandering on to the site despite the warning notices. Gary will send Dave pictures and a video of the ongoing work. Since the Moss is too large to be monitored in its entirety by SNH they will continue to examine plant life in selected areas: they are carrying out similar work on other sites across Scotland. **Gary is sending them a map drawn for the environmental assessment.**
3. LIVING LOMONDS LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP: Two consultancies were interviewed by sub-committee comprising Karen, Louise, Stuart and Mike a week ago when it was also explained that the awarding of the contract lies with LLLP, not with us; the meeting with LLLP representatives to complete requisite forms and permissions only took place yesterday evening (18th).and their decision is currently awaited. We have committed £600 worth of our volunteer time and have already put in half thereof.
4. SIGNAGE ON KILMAGAD. It was noted that notices have been placed on the core path running along Bishop Hill behind the golf course warning that there are cows and calves and requiring that dogs be kept on a lead. **This will be monitored.**
5. BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION; **Duncan is handing his key over to George Guthrie.**
6. ORCHARD: Some fruit trees are being crowded out by birch and rowan which will need to be removed. The apple trees have fruited well but none are yet ripe. It is proposed that as they ripen, they should be picked and placed in boxes at strategic points, e.g shop, with an explanation of their origin and invitation to people to take one.
7. CHRISTMAS TREES: There are no longer any in accessible places. A workday is required to clear a path and cover ditch to enable trees to be brought out. It is unlikely that the public will be allowed into the area: trees will require to be cut in advance. Gary will give advice on pruning trees to make them into acceptable Xmas trees for future years. **It was agreed that the work day should be 1st November and confined to PCWG Committee members.**
8. TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer reported the following transactions since the last update in June 2014.
PAID OUT
£75 Dave Carruthers (orchard strimming)
£235 Matt Hogg (new signs)
£30 Portmoak Festival
£30 Community Woodlands Association (annual membership)
PAID IN
£40 Oak (Lesley & Michael)
BALANCE IN BANK (25 July 14) £2,981.47

Meeting ended 8.55pm