

MINUTES OF MEETING OF PORTMOAK COMMUNITY GROUP STEERING COMMITTEE held on 21st OCTOBER 2014

PRESENT: Karen McDonnell (Chair), Dave Batchelor; Louise Batchelor, Alison Bradley, Dave Carruthers, Elaine Carruthers, Stuart Garvie (from 20.15), Jeff Gunnell.

APOLOGIES: Lesley Botten, Gary Bolton, Mike McGinnes.

1. MINUTES: The Minutes of the last meeting were approved.
2. WOODLAND TRUST UPDATE: Gary reported (1) He has seen no signs of ash dieback at Kilmagad as yet but noted it is at Milnathort so will be watching out for it. (2) Mulching work is complete on the Moss so sphagnum can be re-introduced a.s.a.p. There followed a discussion of the best way to do this. (3) He is confused by the reference to the “new sign” and Louise undertook to enlighten him. There was discussion of refurbishment of the old sign by Matt Hogg. (4) Gary has had a chat on the phone with Robin re Portmoak and today (21.10.14) had a site meeting with Robin Payne and Carol Robertson when a wide range of ideas and management options were discussed. He has offered to give any further necessary support. Louise noted that path across Moss is flooding.
3. LIVING LOMONDS LAND PARTNERSHIP: Contractor is to give Jeff a time scale – finishing by Christmas. It will be necessary to put the news of a public meeting in the Newsletter. The meeting would need to be in the first week of December. A good time form the Consultants to meet with us would be on the night of the November meeting. A woman from the British Dragonfly Society wants to do an interpretation making Portmoak Moss a hotspot. She would also like us to apply for funding on her behalf from Community Action Challenge Fund. Two points were raised: (1) we do not want to have numerous organisations all putting up individual signs and (2) would an application on her behalf by us prejudice our own application.
4. SIGNAGE ON KILMAGAD: This was discussed at the Community Council Meeting. Louise was present. Calum Robertson said he was given the signs by George Lawrie. There was much muttering as the intimidatory signage is considered inappropriate: something will be done. It was noted that there are funds for path improvements but how long these would last is not known.
5. ORCHARD: There are still apples on trees in the orchard. The basket of apples was delivered to the shop. Louise suggested ways of disposing of surplus apples in the future. Some labels on the trees are clear but others have vanished. It was proposed that next autumn we should get Appletreeman to come to identify them. Louise will deal with this. Early plantings were recorded by GPS. The excess of native trees will be dealt with later.
6. TREASURER: It was noted that the balance in the bank remains at £2,806.02 Some will be required for Burns' Supper and some for Consultant.
7. VISION: (1) Louise outlined a range of proposals for putting “Magic into the Moss” (2) Calendar: January – Burns Supper, February – Orchard pruning, March – Guided Walk, April – Bird watch and Easter eggs, May - mowing/weeding round orchard trees, June - Damselflies, Dragonflies and Moths and Butterflies, July – Teddy Bears' Picnic and BBQ, August – Trip to Flanders Moss etc., September – Fungi foray, October – Lantern Event, November – Christmas preparations, December – Christmas Tree event.

8. BURNS' SUPPER: Hall booked for 24th January 2015 and usual number of tables. Immortal Memory: Stuart will ask Colin Fox or Dave B. will contact Robert Crawford. Pat to be booked to clean Hall. It was agreed that Dave B. will ask Helen to do the catering. Bar: Mike or Lesley will take charge. Dave B. will invite Dr Carr to address the haggis. Elaine will ask Rebecca Mitchell to give the Selkirk Grace. She will also find someone to be Poosie Nancy. Music: Mike and another. Pianist: Louise will ask Lynne. Toast to the Lassies and reply: various names discussed. Elaine will chair. Karen will do Mosses, Slaps and Waters. Andrew McBride will be invited. Tickets and promotion advertising – Trojan to print.
9. AOB: Louise (1) Christmas Tree recce - 1st November meet at 10.30am at main entrance to Moss with bow saws. (2) Environmental Shield Award - 19th November at Cleish Hall. Jeff: "Light up Kinross" need something to display so not this year. Discussion of cost of poles for teepee as against cost of yurt (ger). Teepee very difficult to erect, yurt very easy. Hire yurt?

NEXT MEETING: 18th November 7.30

Meeting ended 9.25pm