

MINUTES: PORTMOAK COMMUNITY WOODLANDS STEERING GROUP MEETING 16.12.2014

.Present: Jeff Gunnell (chairing), Louise and Dave Batchelor, Dave Carruthers, Stuart Garvie, Michael McGinnes, Lesley Botten, Marjorie and Graham Smith

.Apologies: Alison Bradley, Karen McDonnell, Elaine Carruthers.

.Woodland Trust update: in Gary Bolton's (WTS) absence the committee noted the new paths and step work in Portmoak Moss and the general comment was 'very good'. There was concern that the section branching first right off the path, from the Scotlandwell entrance, needed more structural work to prevent the top dressing washing off. This section is prone to flooding. The Grahamstone entrance has also become very boggy. **Action:** Jeff offered to check whether WTS contractors had done any work on that entrance. **Action:** Louise to email Gary about the Grahamstone entrance and about the nails and other fixings which had been left by the contractors beside at least 2 sets of steps. Dipwell replacement was discussed, as dipwells had been removed prior to the mulching work in August. **Action:** Stuart and Michael offered to put them back in the spring, after consulting SNH. This work might attract some volunteers.

.LLLP: We are still expecting Robin Payne's report by Xmas. **Action:** Jeff to remind Robin that Xmas was fast approaching. Also, he would send Robin the woodland group's logo. Marjorie and Graham Smith were welcomed to their first (and hopefully not their last) meeting. Marjorie (a botanist) works for the Scottish Schools Education Research Centre. She showed us a series of teaching resources which she had developed on various environmental topics and (**action**) offered to explore the development of a new teaching resource on the theme Let's Talk Bogs. This was warmly welcomed.

.Orchard: **Action.** Louise has still to contact Andrew Lear about an apple ID day next autumn.

.Treasurer's report: Lesley said the bank balance was the same as last month's £2, 806p. It would soon be boosted by takings of £423.20p for Xmas trees, which she had just banked. More money will follow from this event.

.Xmas tree event: It was a great success, despite the weather. Lessons learned.: -Owing to lack of demand, Stuart won't provide mulled wine next time and just offer mulled juice. **Action:**We need to prune the Xmas trees for next time. Pruning date of **29th March** agreed. **Action:** Louise to ask Gary what to do. **Action:** Jeff to write a generic risk assessment for future events. For the Xmas trees we will add in the allergy risk from pine juice. **Action:** Stuart to investigate cost of buying a bogey. Next time we will put up a sign for the Xmas trees at the road end.

.Burns Supper: All speakers and musicians fixed. **Action:** Louise to ask Shep to set up the barrel of beer. **Action:** Jeff to ask film club about borrowing their projector. Graham Smith offered to leaflet Gamekeepers and to back up the barman on the night. Lesley had applied for a license. **Action:** Dave Carruthers to buy water. **Action:** Lesley to tell Louise about soft drink quantities and Louise to ask Shep to buy it. **Action:** Louise to supply raffle tickets.

Date of next meeting: 20.1.2015

