

## MINUTES: PORTMOAK COMMUNITY WOODLANDS STEERING GROUP MEETING 20.01.15

Present: Jeff Gunnell (inn chair), Louise and Dave Batchelor, Elaine and Dave Carruthers, Stuart Garvie (arrived 20.05), Gary Bolton (arrived 19.45, left 21.10), Michael McGinnes, Lesley Botten, Marjorie and Graham Smith

Apologies: Karen McDonnell

(1) Woodland Trust update: Gary Bolton reported he had visited the Moss yesterday and a lot of access work has been done. Fallen trees will be dealt with. He is waiting for Report. He has had chats with Carol Robertson and Andrew McBride but is concerned about funding. Agreement is required on what is to be done. Robin Payne says we should tell Portmoak Stables that Moss is not suitable for horses. Fencing which now serves no purpose is to be removed – this will be done under next budget. Louise noted that one dog walker was regretting how wet the path is on the dome and Gary has proposed it should be cambered. It was agreed a board walk would be a good idea but it raises problems of slipperiness. There have been complaints about the natural path and the changing hydrology but any work on the path should wait until the land settles down though short term measures should be carried out by WT if practicable.

There are one or two deer in the enclosure on Kilmagadwood.

Gary suggested the Scots pine awarded by Kinross Civic Trust should be planted on the hill somewhere Dave and Louise feel appropriate, possibly near bench.

Xmas Tree pruning – Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March – Gary will attend or give instructions.

(2) Primary Schools: Marjorie Smith works for SSERC and loves the idea of an event for Primary schools around the Loch, Ballingry, etc. looking at bog etc. She will email info. to Gary. It would be easiest to invite teachers to local venue between 4 and 6pm on a weekday. She has costed designing and printing at about £125 to produce information for all teachers plus spare copies. Grant from Teaching Trust would cover this. It should be made more “Moss” than specifically “Portmoak Moss”. Marjorie will continue to work on this and come up with dates. Teachers would go round Moss in small groups and be shown, for example, how to measure water level, monitor change, etc. She will produce new information sheet. This would be a perfect type of project for the Edward Fairbairn Trust: Children are required to study Scottish environment and Marjorie has funding for a pilot project. She would like to make application on behalf of PCWG – for activities to develop leadership etc. She has researched resources available but there is nothing accessible of the sort being contemplated. SNH would be interested in this also.

(3) Treasurer’s Report – 19.01.15 - Transactions from December 2014

### PAID OUT TO

|                         |        |              |                           |
|-------------------------|--------|--------------|---------------------------|
| Perth & Kinross Council | £10.00 | Burns Supper | alcohol licence           |
| Louise Batchelor        | 42.00  | Burns Supper | tickets printed at Trojan |
| Dave Batchelor          | 60.00  | Burns Supper | fliers printed at Trojan  |
| Stuart Garvie           | 39.32  | Xmas Trees   | refreshments              |

### PAID IN

|                  |        |                      |
|------------------|--------|----------------------|
| 15 December 2014 | 423.20 | Xmas Trees           |
| 15 December 2014 | 10.00  | Burns Supper 2014    |
| 6 January 2015   | 45.00  | Xmas trees           |
| 13 January 2015  | 15.00  | Xmas trees           |
| 13 January 2015  | 506.00 | Burns Supper tickets |

Balance in bank                      £3,654.20

Petty cash in hand                      £21.92

*NOTE: Total Xmas Trees donations      £483.20*

(4) LLLP: We are still awaiting Robin Payne's report. It is essential that this is agreed not later than beginning of February. **Action:** Jeff to contact Robin to emphasise this. A major UK Peatland Restoration Project is projected and at very short notice an invitation to PCWG to attend has been received via Robin. No-one was free to attend apart from Alison and it was agreed she should go and endeavour to bring the proposals for the future of Portmoak Moss to the attention of the other delegates and try to attract funding.

(5) Burns Supper: 113 tickets sold. On 24<sup>th</sup> January Dave C and others will attend the hall at 5.30 to start setting up. Elaine has a key. Dave B will install PA system in advance. Detailed arrangements were discussed and jobs allocated. Karen to greet guests and Alison to sell raffle tickets in hall. Lesley to cover door, Helen Baird will be asked to buy banquetting rolls. Dave B and Louise to bring bird table and Dave C and Elaine to bring lectern. Mike to collect Civic Trust plaque from shop. Louise to bring box of chocolates for the two girls. Dave B has quiz for entertainments. Karen is to speak and will require list of headings. Raffle prizes: 2 bottles whisky, bird table, bottle of prosecco and Enid has donated two pots of honey.

(6) AOCB: It was agreed Dave B should get two good pictures of Moss and Kilmagad and mount them to display at public meetings.