

Portmoak Community Woodland Group minutes 19 April 2016

Present: Dave C, Elaine C, Jeff G, Stuart G, Alison, Nicola, Stuart B, Chris

Apologies: Dave B, Louise B, Lesley B, Mike McG, Sheena J, Charlotte M

1. **AGM.** Held before the ordinary meeting. Notes published separately.
2. **Woodland Trust update.** Gary not present but we had a general discussion of his outline ideas for the next management plan for the Moss:
 - Taking out the trees in compartments 2a and 4a amounting to approx. 10 hectares = a third of the remaining conifers. This to be completed within the next 5 years.
 - Enrichment planting of oak and rowan and scots pine to supplement the regen birch.
 - Action is required because the trees are in poor nick and there will be an increasing amount of windblow which is expensive to deal with. Better to do the whole thing in one hit.

The big thing from our point of view is to manage the transition. And the expectations of the general public. We don't want another bomb site event. We want to take care over the effect on wildlife. Suggest getting input from George and Scott on what would be good to do from the point of view of insects and birds. Can we use the lagg fen project to help manage the transition? For example reprofile, put in more open water and wetland areas, put in access points to the new habitats, get them established but let people know that this is the beginning of a major change? Be good to have a quick walk through with the whole group.
3. **Hydrology.** Stuart to send data to go to Jeff for the website.
4. **Map A2** size is framed, ready for the wall and was really useful for our discussions. Another tick.
5. **Treasurers report.** Annual details with the AGM notes. £4846.88 in the bank
6. **Burns Supper.** Everything done that needs to be done so far. Panic will resume later in the year.
7. **Lag fen funding.** We don't match the Esme Fairbairn requirements: they fund expense, not capital. But they thought we put in a strong application so we could try them another time if we have the right sort of project. Louise has kicked off the European Leader fund which P&K council hold. Not heard from Patagonia yet. But LLLP have said that if we can't raise other funding, then they'll support the whole project! Jeff to chase Andrew McBride for technical and commercial specs that Ed can work up into an enquiry document. Important to log all time spent on this project - it's part of our matched contribution.
8. **Schools.** No change
9. **Orchard Green.** Dave Carruthers has been asked to trim.
10. **Apple pruning** day on 20th March a success.
11. **Xmas pruning** date 24th April.
12. **Loch Leven nature reserve management plan.** Jeff and Stuart G met LL NNR rep. Seems like a good idea all round - we need to put in a response to their plan. Have time - although the date is gone they won't pick up on this until June.
13. **Stuart sphagnum ID event** needs to be a weekend. And a public event.

14. **Discovery day.** 12 June. Need volunteers. Stuart G in charge.
15. **CWA hutting event.** 7 May. No one interested in going.
16. **LLLP review day:** 22 June. We should attend.
17. **SNH filming** of contractors doing regen clearing carried out..