

Portmoak Community Woodland Group

20 September 2016

Present

Alison Bradley	Sheena Jamieson	Michael McGinness	Chris Vlasto
Elaine Carruthers	Nic Cassidy	Leslie Botten	Stuart Garvie
Stuart Byers	Jeff Gunnell (Chair)		

Apologies

Louise Batchelor	Dave Batchelor	Dave Carruthers	Gary Bolton
------------------	----------------	-----------------	-------------

1. Woodland Trust Update

- a. Gary not present
- b. Alison sent photo to Gary of damage at Kinnesswood steps.
- c. Current items for maintenance list:
 - Wearing out: the bridge by the steps at the leaky area.
 - Bridge off the main track track to the south looking in poor shape.
 - Trees on the airfield side at the southern perimeter look vulnerable.
 - Dangerous looking tree on the main avenue into the Moss from Scotlandwell entrance.
 - Any movement on the Grahamstone entrance improvements?
 - Up on the hill, the bench up there, which is pretty well used, is falling apart. This was an informal construction by a local (not one of the PCWG). What options are there for replacement? We're wondering if it could be offered for someone to buy a new bench as a memorial, for example. Would the WT be interested in that or is it something that the PCWG could take the lead on?

d. WT management plan for Portmoak Moss.

- Paragraph proposed for inclusion in plan:

In 2014 the Portmoak Community Woodland Group commissioned a study by the environmental specialist Robin Payne to produce a report on "Management Options for Portmoak Moss". The Woodland Trust acknowledges the value of this long term view and supports the content. However, the Woodland Trust cannot commit the resources which would be required to deliver the ideas in the Payne Report and so they are not included in this management plan. If resources or funding to implement some ideas from the Report could be raised by the Portmoak Community Woodland Group, then the Woodland Trust would look favourably on such proposals. The final decision on whether any are carried out will be made by the Woodland Trust, taking into account the overall objectives for Portmoak Moss. One proposal from the report which has been achieved is an example of how this process can be successful. Following an effort led by PCWG, in September 2016 the peat face was re-profiled. The resources and funding came from the Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership and the PCWG.

We think that this wording will help us to raise funds: *"The Woodland Trust acknowledges the value of this long term view and supports the content."*

But obviously the WT are always in control of what actually gets done: *"The final decision on whether any are carried out will be made by the Woodland Trust."*

In practice, we'd never go for funding on any project without firstly making sure that the WT would support it.

- Should there be a proposal for development of footpaths?
- Expect to see removal of sitka on left hand side with planting of stands of mixed native species. Will there also be a plan to put in areas of open water and wetland species?

2. Bog snorkeling

- a. Data from auto-monitors sent to Debbie Spray.
- b. Stuart G. to get rainfall data.

3. Treasure's report

- a. No change: £4731

4. Apple day
 - a. Most leaflets distributed but still some to do:
 - i. SNH (Chris)
 - ii. Lochend Farmshop (Stuart G)
 - iii. Moss entrance info box (Nic)
 - iv. Giacopazzi's (Nic)
 - v. Sainsbury's (Nic)
 - b. eMail list (Jeff)
 - c. Facebook. Pay for push notifications. About £20. If it works, use for Christmas tree event too.
 - d. In Community Council minutes.
 - e. Prep day Sunday (Sheena, Stu, Nic, Mike)
 - i. Path up middle.
 - ii. Clear round trees
 - f. Dave C. strimming.
 - g. Bring containers for juice (All).
 - h. Louise to confirm details for the day – start time, etc.
5. Reprofiting project
 - a. Reprofiting on left and right of steps completed. Peat dams on crown completed. Steps to be replaced: materials on order.
 - b. Total project cost £21557 + VAT £4311.40 = £25868.40 inc VAT.
 - i. LLLP = £22900
 - ii. PCWG = £1484.20
 - iii. WT = £1484.20
 - iv. Basically we got the whole project done for about half of what we planned.
 - c. Info about project given to Community Council at their last meeting.
6. Plan for the year.
 - a. Burns supper
 - b. Apple day
 - c. Christmas tree.
 - d. Night walk
 - e. ID various beasts and flora and fauna.
 - f. David Munro history walk
 - g. History year – Jeff to invite Wendy MacP to meeting: she'll come in October. Time machine?
 - h. Stuart G's bird day: 1st week in November, 09:30 start.
 - i. Stuart to organise: newsletter, eMail, booking for places.
7. LLLP event on 24 September: no one available, Jeff to send apologies.
8. Community Woodlands Association conference: 1 & 2 October: no one available.
9. Visit by Japanese researchers: Mike, Leslie and Alison.
 - a. Good visit, useful for researchers. They've been looking at community involvement in woodlands across Europe.
10. Falkland Trail Runners.
 - a. Want to have events in the Moss from time to time.
 - b. Our only concern is with their safety – broken treads on steps, tripping hazards.
 - c. They have their own insurance, do risk assessments and put signs for hazards.
 - d. Gary to confirm it's OK with him.
11. Wetlands course run by Andrew McBride in Falkland. Jeff attended.
 - a. Lot's of useful info, especially if we go for wetland development as a future project.
 - b. Andrew has given us the Fen Management Handbook.
12. Milnathort CC interested in a community woodland. Giacopazzi asked Jeff how it's done. Put in contact with Gary.
13. CC want to put signs on Michael Bruce Way showing direction down through Orchard. Need permission from WT. Chris to follow up with CC.