

Minutes

PORTMOAK COMMUNITY WOODLANDS GROUP

September 19th 2017 7.30pm The Well Country Inn

1. Present Jeff G, Louise B, Nicola B, Stewart B, Sheena J, , Dave B, Lesley B, Calum B, Marge, Grahame, Sylvia Elaine C, Chloe, Charlotte V, John Whiteford.
2. Apologies – Sheena J, Gary B, Lesley B. Alison B.
3. Minutes – ok
4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

Calums tree - **Michael**. Stakes - **Btuart** chicken wire - **dave or stewart** – apple tree day. Piccie with Cloe and Griff.

Apple tree protection from deer. Ask Andrew Lear expert advice on apple day

Deer Fence. What to do. Ask Woodland Trust for time to consult community. **Jeff?**

Grahame's edit of WT actions. **Will attach to this minute**

5. Woodland Trust update from **Gary**.

I'm sorry to say I'll sadly miss tonight's meeting. I'm at the hospital (yet again) this evening for an MRI scan in Edinburgh-yes, they do them in the evenings these days too! And then they want me back in again on Thursday for an op' so I expect to be off for most of next week. I will bounce back as soon as possible though.

Can you let the group know that materials are currently being ordered and a contractor has been lined up to install a new entrance (we will still have double gates, just snazzy new ones and bollards instead of post & rail) to the main entrance to Portmoak Moss and to carry out improvements to the Grahamstone entrance. New WTS welcome boards will also be installed at Kilmagad at the same time.

The rhododendron will be cleared in October/November from behind the curling pond-this will be followed up with annual spot weeding to control any regrowth.

We also have a small amount of money left in the budget for spot weeding on the Moss which I will utilise this year.

I had a meeting recently with the British Dragonfly Society (BDS) who are keen to organise some volunteer work on the raised bog for next year to improve the habitat for damsel and dragonflies (deepen a couple of existing pools and remove silt & plant debris from a few drains to improve the depth). I have asked them to come back to me once they have some dates as I think it would be good to co-ordinate volunteers from: BDS, PCWG and WTS. Send my regards to all, and fingers crossed I'll see you at the next meeting

6. PCWG report for WT (unsafe trees/bridges etc). We like open water. We like pools being created. Don't want ditches though.

There's a fancy den been built. No problems though that we can see. **Piccie att.**

7. SEPA volunteering day. No progress. Look for other volunteers. SNH Loch Leven? **Stewart** will investigate.



Jeff will buy 1 Medium tree popper

Lesley wants to re-examine grazing. **Michael and Louise** to invite Kate Sankey

8. PCW update (dipwell data etc)

9. Treasurer's report. No Change

10. Chris's project. **Louise** to arrange a day that Jimmy, Simon B and interestit pairties can discuss, point and measure the space. **Jeff** to supply climbing rope!!

11. Events update:

Apple day. Dave C to secure gazebo. **Charlotte** to hustle Davie Buchan for his apples. Toffee Apples are ordered. Everyone is baking. **Stewart** to bring the burnt table. **Louise** to ask Wendy for the hall's tables. **Louise** will buy new cups. **A'b'dy** to bring their cups. **Charlotte** to put the word round the mithers.

Oct 1 1400 – 1700

The Brownies are going to nick apples and brambles and make wonderful puds.

Burns Supper. Caterers. Etc.

Marge pursued Loch Leven's Larder with no joy. And Findatie with no joy.

Louise has talked to Karen Bayne who is interested. Detail att. **Louise** to confirm.

Dave to talk to Tom and Corinna re Whisky.

Dave to fix Immortal Memoriser.

Lesley to fix licence.

12. AO

John Whiteford

1 Himalayan Balsam. Need to do something about it. Organise a workday in May. **Talk to Gary.**

2 Will the WT share with John, ditching costs in the field which marches with the Moss? **Talk to Gary.**

3 Maintain the road. Who pays? We'll do a work day in October after **John's** costed the materials. (Breaking news. Funding arranged. Waiting for Johns digger to be repaired before date fixed. Elizabeth Porter - funder - volunteered her sons to help dig!)

Marge. The 2 Development Officers from SSERC visited the Moss on the 20th September. This visit was to look at the Moss as a potential topic for training sessions for Primary teachers. The visit was very positive and a planning meeting will take place at SSERC in the near future to finalise details.

Elaine Portmoak Fest have money to give away. **Dave B** to call Elizabeth for money to repair the road to the moss.

Review of actions for the WT over the last 12 months

1. *The main one is to agree with Highland Conservation exactly what work will done and what the dates will be. (I sent out a separate note on this - not sure who's got the ball). Obviously we're keen to push on with this and also it will be important to do some publicity with the local community since access may be disrupted. From PCWG point of view, we'd like to see all of the areas of work done and we will make up the shortfall on the funding from LLLP.*

2. *I know that you were concerned about the replacing the steps and the machine access. The steps are showing a lot of damage just now with two steps broken. There are also signs of rotting and general wearing out. We're getting comments from the general public about safety. It seems to me that one way or another there is going to have to be some spending on the steps pretty soon, so getting this work done with LLLP funds would save WT having to pay. So, important to make a decision on exactly what goes into the scope.*

3. *Other points*

- *Also wearing out, the bridge by the other 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 looking 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?*
 - *Dodgy Gangway being fixed*
 - *Tree in avenue - dead and dodgy killer woodpeckers.*
 - *Airfield border trees a bit dodgy an a'*

- *Dodgy Chair up the hill. Can Gary replace it with a dedicated one.*
- *Kilmagadwood steps. Gary will fix by the end of April*
- *I have informed our dedication team at Grantham that we have a location available for a Woodland Trust dedications bench near to the viewpoint board on the path*
- *Step improvements; I have added this work to the 2017 work programme. Wooden entrance signs will be renewed at the same time.*
- *Alison's fence. According to Alison's deeds, the WT own it. Needs a bit of restoration. Preferred option is to repair rather than remove. Just needs 2 fence posts.*
- *Going in at Grahamstone, turning right where there used to be some edging boards - they've rotted away so the retainers for them are sticking up and are tripping hazards. Also some metal loops here and there also tripping hazards.*
- *Gary to send info to Louise re planting on the hill.*
- *Nic & Stu pointed out that orchids growing next to the path on the Moss are in danger of being strimmed - have a word with Gary and mark out the area.*
- *Discuss with Gary about what the best course of action would be regarding fires in the Moss*