

Minutes of Woodland Group 19th of May – Zoom meeting

Woodland Group attendees: Louise, Jeff, Mike, Lesley, Marjorie, Graham, Stu, Elaine, Dave, Dave, Sheena, Stewart, Nic and Charlotte

Apologies: Gary

WT update

- Funding shortfall likely.
- Still some funding for more scrub clearing – Louise to check if this is ring fenced and when it may take place
- Railing to be fixed by the contractor – pending
- Has Peatland action funding application gone in?
- Instruction from the WT was that only essential works is permitted e.g. H&S work,
- Start to explore alternative sources of funding to the WT if they become more resource constrained.

Update in full from Gary

That said a couple of things there are a couple of matters which I need to make the group aware of;

- *Uppermost in the Trust's minds is the health and wellbeing of the public, our volunteers and our staff. At the same time, the board of trustees is paying close attention to the Trust's financial sustainability.*
- *Unsurprisingly the Woodland Trust like all charities and businesses is responding to the serious impact the Coronavirus pandemic is having across the sector. Over 50% of our staff are on furlough, we have cancelled all events and we are seeing a rapid and very significant shortfall in revenue.*
- *As a result the Trust is having to respond by reducing operational expenditure across the UK Estate, mainly to the basic requirements of H&S to try to mitigate the financial impact. Hence a wide range of UK Estate wide operational works planned for 2020 is being postponed or moved back to 2021. The only works to be carried out on site are those of an essential nature – such as tree surgery works, emergency H&S works or works on paths and site structures. Our regular contractors are seeing a significant shortfall in annual income as a result of contracts having to be redrawn.*
- *Hopefully the spread of the outbreak will peter out and we can initiate some planned works for later on in the year but for now this is the position.*
- *I spoke with SNH about the Peatland Action grant funding for this year and they tell me everything is still up in the air with them*

PCWG Report to WT

- Raise concern about steps up to Kilmagad Wood need repair
- Deer fence in the wood needs to be taken away
- ? Need to cut grass on paths – seems okay just now

Treasurers report

- Bank balance: £5,957.49 minus the £20 cheque sent to Mary Dewar for Facebook banner design
- Do we want to join the Community Woodland Grouping – continue to support for one more year
- Dave to continue cutting the orchard

Portmoak Bog Booklet and Posters

- Booklet is being given to local children on a limited basis
- New banner now on Facebook with link to the website.
- Full launch delayed until post Covid
- Poster has been designed
- Charlotte to print and laminate 6 copies A4 of poster

Nature Notes

- Jeff will continue to send updates out – very positive responses so far

Dipwell Data

- Stuart measured levels today – data to Jeff and onto the website

Apple day

- Sunday the 27th of September is the date
- Andrew Lear has confirmed
- Apple related raffle possible

Invasive species

- HB – not so much this year as yet

11. Calendar. Michael suggested creating a calendar from his own recent photos and any others of a high spec. He thinks he can calendars printed for around £3 a copy, as long as we order quite a lot, like 100.

He thought we could sell them for £10 each but others thought something much less, like £5 might make them easier to shift. Years ago we tried making money from a calendar with excellent pics by Jeff but we had lots left over (we may have ordered too many but no-one can remember).

Elaine suggested greetings cards but Mike said the costs were too high.

ACTION: Mike to research the calendar and cards idea a bit further.

12. AOB How best to commemorate Jim Shepherd? Maybe a bench with a plaque or clearing the path in the Moss known as Shep's secret passage.

ACTION:everyone to think about this a bit more.
