

## Minutes of Woodland Group 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – Zoom meeting

Attendees: Louise, Dave, Stuart, Jeff, Mike, Lesley, Marjorie, Graham, Charlotte, Sheena, Elaine and Dave, Gary, Nic and Stu. Apologies: None

### WTS update. (Gary) and PCWG report

Gary's responses to Stuarts queries:

Reprofiling –NatureScot money available. Plan is to start in August 2021 after talking to farmers re access from Grahamstone. Gary to talk to Peatland Action on Friday, to finalise application.

There is money in kitty for additional work:

Spraying of birch on the top will happen in warmer weather when more foliage on saplings. Mending bridge - Timber in process of being cut– plan to start end of May.

Kilmagad - Gary has requested quote for replacing steps– plan to do same time as deer fence removal . **Do we need to protect fruit trees from deer in future?**

**Gary** is producing poster to explain what's happening to public- will send to **Charlotte** for laminating and displaying.

**Gary** will get them to look at (Scotlandwell in Bloom ) flowerbeds at bottom of steps and renew any rotten planks.

Dragonfly ditches –Water draining away from mid section of large dragonfly ditch. **Dave** to send Gary photo of leak. *Need to address if/how can mend leak* as matter of urgency. OK for us to go ahead and insert wooden dams ourselves for main leak. Some work could be done during reprofiling.

**Gary** will set up meeting with us and Dragonfly folk to discuss issues re dams and keeping dragonfly ditches hydrated over summer and try and identify remedy agreeable for both groups. *Plan showing layout of dams would be helpful for discussions to help explain what needed to be done.*

*Also access to dragonfly ditches need to be discussed* - planks to main ditch are hazard and need to be removed/replaced? Sheena noted there is another Dragonfly ditch with easier and safer access on top of moss.

*Areas for clear felling – requires further discussion.*

Large Hanging branches by limekiln – safety hazard. **Gary** will get tree surgeon to chop when sorting other Kilmagad stuff.

Hut in woods been abandoned after signs put up – *need to dismantle at some point* (and hope not re-erected).

### Treasurer's report

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Actual bank balance at 26 March 2021</b> | <b>£5,504.69</b> |
| Owed to Marje for the booklet dispenser     | £13.29           |

### Plans for this year

Balsam pulling – **Mike** will keep watch and tell us when need to start weeding. Gary has grant for removal of weeded weeds on day of pulling if needed. Need to keep track of Grahamstone side too. *Let Gary know if/when want weeds removed.*

Birch pulling – Lothian and Bog Squad will do in Oct/ November (can't do now as birds may be nesting).

Xmas tree pruning –in Aug after birds flown nests – *is existing site still OK or do we need to identify new area?* Mike has windup gramophone to play music at Xmas tree event

Old tree guards nr limekiln and golf course need removed. Plan action day later in summer - but folk can do individually in meantime as and when - – relocate to sheep pen and **Gary** will arrange collection.

Apple day - Andrew confirmed Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>

Launch bogtastic – Marje liaising with school (update – school replied but not allowed to do stuff with outsiders at present)

Orchard board - **Louise** liaising with Kirsty Duncan (WT) to finalise - then will circulate to group

Gate into Moss from Kilmagadwood. - Stevie confirmed to Dave that he'll do in about a month James Drysdale will help if needed.

*Need to think of fundraising for gate – reactivate Justgiving (page lasts 90days)?*

The Big Portmoak Birdwatch. - Jeff circulated results Well received except for moaning about rooks. *Maybe do autumn/winter one?.*

### AOB

Board at Grahamstone entrance. Stuart's mate might be able to refurbish if we decide this is enough. cf Angus quote for high quality new one. (Louise has example pictures at similar sites if we go down new route). *Need to finalise what we want*

PCWG Website revamp – **Jeff** liaising with volunteer IT guy. New one will enable others to help Jeff with website maintenance. *Ideas for new website welcome...eg could host/link to archive of our old photos.*

Moss entrance leaflets - **Gary** will drop more off to Nic and Stu. Also **Marje** will drop off more Bog leaflets

**Dave** will start recutting grass in community orchard

**Marje** ideas for event for launching Bogtastic leaflet.

Thanks to Louise for submitting article to CommunityWoodlandAssoc for their online newsletter (would be good to link to this from our website?)

Location of new sign in orchard? - **Batchelors** to have site visit to ponder on this.

(New orientation board will be erected in its old place by gate)

Date of next meeting 18.05.21