

Portmoak Community Woodland Steering Group

Meeting 21st April 2005

Present; B.Drysdale, H.Rolton, M.Hogg, M.McGinness, L.McGinness, D.Carruthers, K.McDonnell, D.Batchelor, L.Batchelor M.Brown

Apologies: R.McDonnell, , E.Carruthers, R.Barlow J.Gunnell J.Shepherd,

Minutes of previous meeting, agreed as a true reflection. It was however noted that M.Hogg was listed twice under those present.

Woodland Trust Update

Management Plans: R.Barlow interested in an electronic copy of HND Countryside Management Report, if available, as he is currently revising the management plan for Portmoak Moss. The group will have an opportunity to review prior to it being adopted. RB assures the will be no 'surprises' but that the finalised plan will incorporate everything we wish to do over the next 5 years.

Dipwells: H.Rolton met on site with R.Barlow to explain dipwells and associated monitoring, (transferred data relating to water table and rainfall, shown where and how to measure). Consequently the WT will be in a position to monitor water table following felling this will also allow the effects of management/restoration to be identified. RB is to put additional dipwells on site. Discussed a vegetation survey suggested mapping sphagnum but this is very difficult, no satisfactory conclusion on the way forward regarding this

Felling : R.Barlow has requested that the forthcoming felling is the principal focus of the May meeting. He will have details from contractors regarding bog restoration activity. This will include, timetable, and specific issues of concern to be discussed, including finalising footpath diversion routes and issuing a leaflet to raise awareness.

Workday? Agreed that we require to organise a day with the joint objectives of pulling regen; birch and spruce also ditch filling relocating brash into main ditch. The latter will have the benefit of reducing depth assisting silting and removing brash from the site.

Stewarts Turf: Have approached the WT to assist with Rural Stewardship scheme application. Some of the land adjacent to the Moss is unsuitable for turf so are going to plant woodland, this will enhance the 'buffer' zone around the Moss and evolve into an additional refuge area.

Viewpoint Indicator: KMCD has spoken to Osprey regarding next steps. Has confirmed with Osprey we wish to proceed, advised that J.Gunnell can produce an image for the panel. Advised that we wish to limit the cost to £1250.00+VAT. Osprey as happy to go ahead on this basis will arrange to meet up with us once image available.

Bog Visit: R.Barlow meeting SNH reserve manager David Pickett for a guided tour of Flanders Moss on Friday 18th March 1000-1200, they are 5 years further down the line with their restoration so hopefully can glean some useful information.

Bog Seminar: B.Drysdale participated in this event presented a short paper to approx 20 delegates, some had already visited the Moss and were very impressed with activity. The key theme had been community involvement in the process and had been well received.

Bats: no update

Treasurers Report: balance £1793.67

HND Countryside Management:

Students also volunteered to plant trees on Kilmagadwood, this would assist the group and add to their portfolio, B.Drysdale to keep in touch with students to facilitate this. A number of the group have now read the report, some issues around spelling (probably because spell checker used) and linking graphs to text to assist understanding.

Unauthorised work within the Moss: Signage relating to power tool use and deep water in ditches have been repeatedly removed from the Moss entrance. Those signs along the main ditch have not been removed.

MSc: H.Rolton has achieved MSc but appealing result as she is within a few % of an overall distinction. No update however had been advised that the external examiner was indeed a zoologist!

PCW minutes: Minutes posted and available via Portmoak Community Council website, P.Haslam to keep us informed of interest.

Calendar: no update

Biodiversity Action Grant,

M.Scharsach of the Community Woodland Association had sent across a draft application. It has been proposed that Portmoak Community Woodland is one of two examples to be included in a series of 10 training events related to biodiversity. The draft had been read by both KMcD and Roy Barlow to ensure general points agreed with. Should the application for funding be successful further discussion will be required to finalise programme content, PCW will be involved in this process. The programme of events will be scheduled between summer 2005 and end of March 2007.

Portmoak Festival: no update regards timings etc, M.Hogg is anticipating being asked to create a 'temporary' arch at access to the churchyard from the carpark, RMcD to cut suitable timber when required.

AoCB

Regeneration: As mentioned by R.Barlow there has been a significant amount of regeneration particularly of pine. M.McGinness advised that glyphosate is more successful in treating birch but the pine may have been too small at the point of application for it to have any impact.

Paths: Water is pooling on paths in various areas, there is a need to monitor this closely. There is the possibility that the geotextile is failing also the logs at edge are rotting. In the tip area at the access from Grahamstone there is a significant migration of 'old' rubbish to the surface need a workday to clear.

Kinross Show: KMCD to apply for a site at this year's event.

Walkwise magazine: M.Brown had received free copy of this publication. Suggested that the Woodland Trust might be interested in submitting an article to encourage the use of both the Moss and Kilmagadwood. Website www.walk-wise.co.uk

Kilmagadwood Signage

G.McShane reported that there was a new sign at the entrance to the above, Kilmagad Hill, the sign had been erected by the Woodland Trust. It was discussed that the hill had never been known as this and was not referred to as this on any map. WT to resolve.

Interpretation: There is a need to have a formal structured approach to this within both the Moss and Kilmagadwood at present there is a proliferation of 'temporary' signage.

Bridge between Moss entrance and Wellburn: It was reported that the adjacent landowner is concerned that the stone bridge has failed and water building up. Advised to contact WT to discuss responsibilities. Also some discussion regarding 'pollution' in the water running along this water course.

Next meeting: Thursday 19th May 2005 Well Country Inn