

## **Portmoak Community Woodland Steering Group**

**Meeting** : 18<sup>th</sup> August

**Present:** M.Brown, N.Peter J.Gunnell, L& M.McGinnes, L.Batchelor, D.Batchelor, M.Hogg, D.Carruthers, K.McDonnell R.Barlow, S.Garvie J.Shepherd,

Apologies: R.McDonnell,

Minutes of previous meeting agreed as a true reflection.

### **Woodland Trust Update**

R.Barlow, reported that;

Felling complete, clearing site have agreed with contractor what requires to be removed, estimated brush clearance will take 2-3 weeks.

Brush mat accumulating in turning area, a potential fire risk; mulching this is an option, currently considering the most effective way forward. R.Barlow is satisfied with the overall operation, contractor has acted in accordance with agreement.

Re-opening of the Moss once paths re-instated, essentially once heavy plant and timber removed.

Damming will proceed as soon as current contractor off site, 47 dams estimated.

Activity is being met by grant funding, actual loss of approx.£20k on felling operation.

Discussed press coverage for re-opening; open evening tbc, perhaps a Wine & Bog evening.

Draft leaflet not in 'final' form, RB to post for comment, feedback at September meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

£1782.28 funds available.

### **Viewpoint Indicator**

KMcD to arrange meeting with Dr.D Munro for historical information and J.Gunnell for geological information.

### **Kinross Agricultural Show**

Very successful , lot of interest but perhaps need to invest in new boards for next year, new leaflet will also be available then. It was suggested that we approach a R.Erskine to transport tepee poles on low loader next year

### **Tetley Trail:**

Discussed at Community Council, will revert to Tracks/P&K Council, J.Shepherd to urge CC to spend remainder of funds on essential maintenance.

### **Portmoak Moss Management Plan**

Consultation period not extensive enough, comments should be emailed to RB asap, discussed following points, which RB will summarise and include.

Plan does not recommend woodland?

Revert to wet woodland, suggest progress monitored/reviewed every 5 years current text suggests that WT don't have long term commitment to restoration.

Whether damming has an impact will be obvious within 10-15years.

Visitor survey 11,000 is accurate

Car parking need to include a description of what is available and where relative to woodland.

Horses, ensure responsible use, monitor condition of paths, keep RB and WT access officer in loop.

Contractor has been engaged to improve, Tetley trail diversion, wellburn path and pontoon at back steps all within the Moss, also to upgrade crossing at Lucky's ditch.

RB monitoring water levels on the Moss, could do with some volunteers as requires to be undertaken every 2 months, rota to be established.

### **MSC Report:**

D.Carruthers currently reading.

### **Filming in Moss: Theatre Group:**

Not going ahead.

### **AoCB**

#### **Gate at entrance to Moss**

Originally put in place by Community Council, to prevent peat being stolen, believe it serves no useful purpose as there is a padlocked gate at the entrance to the woodland. JS to raise at CC.

#### **Curling Pavillion**

Being used at bothy by local young people, could be upgraded to improve safety aspects. JS to raise informally with W.Turnbull.

#### **Memberships**

Rejoin both Community Woodland Association and Reforesting Scotland.

#### **Biodiversity Training Day**

PCW successful in attracting funding will require to plan for Spring 06, CWA will provide necessary guidance.

Next Meeting

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September The Well Country Inn