

Portmoak Community Woodland Steering Group

Meeting: 19th January 2006, Well Country Inn

Present: J.Shepherd, E.Carruthers, S.Garvie, M.McGinnes, L.McGinness, L.Batchelor, D.Batchelor, M.Brown, B.Drysdale, M.Hogg.

Apologies: R.McDonnell, J.Gunnell

Minutes of previous meeting agreed as a true reflection

Woodland Trust Update

Leaflet: Need to distribute to shop, pubs, Lochleven Larder etc. M.Hogg is to make a leaflet dispenser for entrance to the Moss. To be made available at Burns Supper.

Viewpoint Indicator: No progress, issue must be closed out before end of March 2006.

Weather data: J.Shepherd has pursued but adjacent turf farm does not record, suggested that an approach is made to residents at the Sluices, as there is believed to be a weather station there. Discussed purchasing our own station however decided against, as routine monitoring would have a significant time commitment.

Treasurer's Report: £854 in account, Trojan bill £1284.11 settled early January.

Tetley-Trail: no update, no paths group since our last meeting. M.Brown has agreed to update when information available.

Portmoak Moss Management Plan: Requested from Roy Barlow.

Curling Pavilion: J.Shepherd advised that Jane Turnbull in touch regards this matter, the situation is likely to resolve itself during 2006. Keen to identify what our proposals are, speaking to their membership to gauge opinion, will feedback in due course.

Biodiversity Training Day: Date, programme and speakers agreed, KMcD coordinating, producing a costing for event, CWA have allocated £1500 to fund activity. Costing to be provided to Feb meeting.

Website: CWA website cannot provide the support required, J.Gunnell pursuing KMcD

Calendar: Sold in the region of 100 calendars, Exxon have provided £500 funding which has assisted greatly in meeting the costs of the activity. The images from the calendar will be used at the forthcoming Burns Supper. KMcD is to write to Exxon and thank them for their support.

Burns Supper: Sell out, all arrangements in order. M.Hogg has incurred expenses of £23.79 in relation to production of chair. J.Shepherd is to arrange printing of programme.

Tree Tubes and Stakes: KMcD to retrieve from Kilmagadwood.

10th Anniversary: Take forward following Biodiversity Training Day.

Timber (Community Use) Removal from Site: R.Barlow to confirm arrangements made are suitable.

RSPB Bird Survey: S.Garvie has received copy.

AoCB

Depth of Water in Ditches: L.Batchelor raised concerns given that now at full depth, suggested digging parallel ditches to hold water. Comment required from H.Rolton?

Kilmagadwood: At the second stile a hole has been made to permit access by dogs, would be more appropriate to have a dog gate? Discussed the possibility of approaching landowner to erect a fence to separate people from livestock, which would allow the stiles to be removed thereby easing access onto the hill. R.Drysdale is to speak with landowner. M.Hogg volunteered to make dog gate is required.

Also needing to remove tree guards from well-established trees on Kilmagadwood.

Alan Titchmarsh: Opportunity to have Moss showcased on a 'Biodiversity' programme, KMcD to make contact.

Shotton Wood: S.Garvie suggested we consider producing an array of short information leaflets featuring areas of particular interest in our woodlands. Discuss further at Feb meeting.

Signage for Woodland: Currently any items of interest are drawn to attention of public by posting notices on entrance gate, suggested creating a rustic notice board, perhaps from oak which would be more in keeping with the woodland environment. M.Hogg can produce but would require guidance on style/group expectations.

Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 16th Feb.2006, Lomond Country Inn at 1930hrs