

Portmoak Community Woodland Steering Group

Meeting: January 2007 The Well Country Inn

Present: D Batchelor, M.McGinnes,L.Botton, A.Bradley, K.McDonnell, J.Shepherd, S.Garvie, E.Carruthers,MBrown

Apols: R.Barlow

No matters arising from Jan minutes

Woodland Trust Update

Roy Barlow moving house this week, no issues raised.

Tetley Trail/Michael Bruce Way

KMcD to speak with LB regards suitable format for 'expression of interest' letter in relation to field through which Kilmagadwood accessed from Portmoak Church.

Stephens Land adjacent to Kinnesswood

J.Shepherd advised that Portmoak Community Council to hosted a meeting to discuss the formation of a local Trust which could co-ordinate acquisition of land etc.The meeting had been well attended, but the timescale to formation will be perhaps longer than anticipated, up to 1 yr. A further public meeting will be convened to develop this initiative, anticipate that individual householders will be targetted to attend.

Interpretation

R Barlow is taking forward the 'life cycle' with in-house WT team. JG suggestion to include further visual images of land use viewed as a useful addition. R. Barlow to advise of next steps.

Viewpoint Indicator

Ongoing

Weather Data

Portmoak Gliding Union, website holds weather data, should consider a link between our site to this information. KMcD to raise with J.Gunnell. The site can be viewed via <http://www.aorc85.dsl.pipex.com>

Treasurers Report

£1251.78 in account.

Website

Continuing to develop, JG to be reimbursed for software and domain name registration. KMcD contacted Melanie Strutt, Community Affairs Assistant and thanked her for the support provided to PCW through the Exxon Volunteer Improvement Programme.

Discussed the need to select images for postcard production this could be done march/april 2007, perhaps a landscape similar to that taken for the viewpoint indicator could be reproduced.

Timber Community Use

No update, anticipate Galgael will be in touch after clock change.

Squirrel Monitor

No update

Fife Red Squirrel Group established in October 2006, KMCD to establish contact and request information regards any surveys conducted in areas bordering Portmoak, request meeting/invite to future Moss meeting.

Suspect 3 or 4 squirrels in Moss, need to approach Fife Ranger Service Squirrel Group and ask if an indication of species balance in areas adjacent to Portmoak, and where reds and greys are located. This will then suggest how the control of Grey Squirrel population may be taken forward. KMCD to contact.

Community Woodland Association, further training day

There is further funding available to support training days, the possibility of PCW running another event was discussed, perhaps focussing on Fauna present within the Moss, including survey techniques, trapping mammals, red squirrel survey results, and microbiology of the bog through a 'bog laboratory'. Update with Diana Campbell.

Burns Supper

An outstanding success ...again. Issues discussed around timescale for getting tickets sold etc, this had been too pressurised. Committed to get posters out in November07, issues also around ticket numbers when balancing costs. To ensure this doesn't arise again need to number tickets.

The Man who planted Trees

Unavailable during the festival, consider running on a mutually convenient, ED to contact..

Hanging Trees

These had been addressed, no notification to group of contractor activity however, precludes requirement for signs. R.McD is undertaking recertification training with Alan Plummer 19th March. D.Batchelor also undertaking training at Elmwood College, benefits to group if possible to add a further name to the WT insurance. D.B had discussed funding with R.Barlow WT but not in a position to support,. KMCD to raise with R.B and request that another 'license' granted, however WT only have 15 named volunteers linked to current insurance.

AoCB

Sawmill

KMcD when discussing dates for chainsaw recertification training raised the issue of adding sawmill to the WT insurance cover. This would allow machine to be set up adjacent to timber thereby greatly reducing manual handling issues. R.Barlow to consider how to move forward.

Next Meeting: Thursday 16th March, The Well Country Inn