

Portmoak Community Woodland Steering Group

Meeting: March 2007 The Well Country Inn

Present: D Batchelor, A.Bradley, K.McDonnell, J.Shepherd, S.Garvie, MBrown, JGunnell, D.Carruthers

Apols: R.Barlow E.Carruthers,M.McGinnes,L.Botton, H.Rolton

No matters arising from Feb minutes

Woodland Trust Update

Roy Barlow moving house this week, Both Bob McDonnell and Dave Batchelor can be covered on the insurance as long as they're not using chainsaws simultaneously. i.e. only one user at any one time. This should be added to the risk assessment. To get Dave set up on the system, he'll need to fill out a Volunteer Registration Form. He can email this back to me and I'll forward it to the volunteer team. We'll also need copies of his certificate and evidence of First Aid training in last three years.

Portmoak Moss WT contractor has done some windblow clearance and bridge building as agreed at our 2006 access review. The bridge across the main drain has been rebuilt on new bearers but is in slightly the wrong place, will alter path route and take out the plank bridge. Also built a new bridge into the south-western finger and done some path clearance there, further of bridge upgrade and a few hung trees to deal with.

JS to provide contact details of the folk who took that great red squirrel picture, would like I'd like to get digital version in WT photo library with appropriate permissions for use. Requested that SG and MMcG consider undertaking an analysis on the data collected over the past year? Some graphs of mean water level and comparison with rainfall etc?

Kilmagad WT contractor will be fixing the fence at the gate to the lower enclosure shortly, and some discreet rabbit management will be carried out in the lower and middle enclosures.

Tetley Trail/Michael Bruce Way

KMcD has contacted LB regards suitable format for 'expression of interest' letter in relation to field through which Kilmagadwood accessed from Portmoak Church. Also suggested that follow this up with Dave Morris of the Ramblers Association.

Stephens Land adjacent to Kinnesswood

Formation of a local Trust which could co-ordinate acquisition of land etc. A further public meeting has been convened to develop this initiative, anticipate that individual householders will be targeted to attend. Date 18th April 2007 1900hrs Portmoak Village Hall.

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, raised with J.Gunnell. The site can be viewed via <http://www.aorc85.dsl.pipex.com>

Treasurers Report

£1859.28 in account, cheque from CWA £100 to be paid in.

Website

Continuing to develop, JG to be reimbursed for software and domain name registration. 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. Images to be considered at the April meeting. Discussed 'launch' of the postcards to ensure gain publicity also useful to feedback to Exxon.

Timber Community Use

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

Squirrel Monitor

KMcD spoken with Ranald Strachan Squirrel Specialist from Fife Ranger Service. He will attend April meeting to discuss monitoring, red vs grey balance etc.

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'. KMcD update with Diana Campbell.

Burns Supper

Publicise via Stramash, also consider placing information regardsing our meetings in Stramash and the Kinross Newsletter.

The Man who planted Trees

S.Garvie to co-ordinate via Film Club, perhaps have live theatre linked to food followed by movie suitable for children/families.

Chainsaw Training

R.McD has undertaken recertification training with Alan Plummer 19th March. D.Batchelor completed training at Elmwood College. To supply necessary certification plus First Aid Certs to RB asap. meeting discussed that the sawmill had previously been

used within the Moss, classified as a chainsaw by WT. Now that training complete can revert to use within Moss in accordance with Risk Assessment.

AoCB

Tetley Trail/Michael Bruce

JS mentioned that there are funds available albeit limited via the Community Council. Discussed path deterioration at all abilities loop, drainage pipe and whinstone is available on -site. Deterioration also at Grahamstone Road end, this had not been part of the original works however users are now creating diversions so creating path appears logical. Arrange time to walk round in association with WT to assess condition of path and identify remedial measures, local contractor preferred. Will require to quantify costs and then identify funding sources, discuss with WT at April meeting.

Next Meeting: Thursday 19th April The Well Country Inn