

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PORTMOAK COMMUNITY WOODLAND STEERING GROUP
Tuesday, 17 July 2012

PRESENT: David Batchelor, Louise Batchelor, Lesley Botten (minutes), Stuart Garvie, Jeff Gunnell, Michael McGinnes

APOLOGIES: Jilly Aitken, Alison Bradley, Elaine Carruthers, Karen McDonnell, Jim Shepherd

Letter to Woodland Trust

In response to the letter we sent Carol Evans has arranged to meet with the WT sites manager, Tim, to put our questions to him.

Boginar – getting bog experts together

Michael is in contact with Neil Mitchell, SNH who is discussing with his colleague Stephen Longster who has experience from Flanders Moss. Carol Evans has a bog expert lined up and Louise has a contact at the National Trust. We decided the way forward was for the two people from SNH to meet one of us on site for an initial visit. We then need to fix a date for a wider meeting of experts and it was suggested this should happen on one of the last two Fridays in November. We will need to give details of the water levels on the bog and Jeff will help Stuart with pie charts to illustrate this.

Spare piece of land adjacent to the road into the Moss at Scotlandwell

Stuart reminded us that Brian had offered to improve the road surface. We need a simple lease agreement for the spare piece of land.

Viewpoint Indicator

This is with the joiner and will be installed when Shep returns from his holiday.

Woodland Trust update

No report as Jilly is on holiday.

Christmas Trees

Stuart reported that the area of trees from which we harvested Christmas trees last year has been cut. We decided to have a look and to look at the sphagnum regeneration at the same time.

Visit to the Moss: Saturday 21st July : 10.00 am at the Scotlandwell entrance.

Burns Supper 2013

Bill Carr has agreed to address the haggis. Shep to check that the hall has been booked. Start promoting in October in the community newsletter. Dave to find out how much it would cost to put in a paid advert. Suggested we should produce an A5 leaflet and distribute. Dave considering including the whole of The Jolly Beggars but worried that it might be a bit too long.

Pruning Day

Louise had heard back from Andrew Leigh. He said winter is best and for up to 15 people he would run a course for £150 plus travel costs. Actual date (Feb? or March?) to be decided at the next meeting.

HLF All Our Stories application

We discussed the suggested programme of activities and events associated with a proposed application to HLF for money to employ professionals to carry out wildlife surveys of Portmoak Moss and Kilmagad Wood. Lesley will complete the application form and get the relevant financial information from Karen.

LBotten

18.7.2012