

MINUTES OF PORTMOAK COMMUNITY WOODLAND STEERING GROUP

Meeting held 16th October 2012

Present: Jeff Gunnell (Chair) Elaine Carruthers
Dave Batchelor Stewart Garvie
Gary Bolton (WT) Mike McGinnis
Lesley Botten Jim Shepherd
Alison Bradley

Apologies: Louise Batchelor

- Matters Arising:** (i) Website Jeff will **update website** to include Minutes etc.
 - A **link to Facebook** will be added to the website.(ii) Woodland Trust Gary reported (a) that the Woodland Trust will provide perch seats without contribution from PWC and (b).
 - He will also give Mike indication of cost of dams.**(iii). Stewart circulated graphs recording levels in the dipwells since 2002. It was noted that at the start level recorded was -500 mm, but for some time now this has risen to -250 mm. It was questioned whether more dams would improve the level, Mike thought an increase of 3" – 4" (76 mm – 102 mm) would be achieved.
 - Stewart is to compile average for each dipwell and to show location of each well.** He felt lack of knowledge of the topography of the site raises a problem but this might be remedied at the Boginar.(iv) Gary advised that the scheduled date for erection of the Viewpoint Indicator is **22nd October**.
- "Boginar":** Four people are expected to attend the Boginar from the Woodland Trust: Tim Hall, Operations Director, Carol Evans, someone from Conservation Team in Grantham and Gary Bolton. Jeff and Louise have confirmed the programme. Louise has sent invitation email.

Others expected to attend are:-

Jonathan Hughes – Director, SWT
Eric Coull - Conservation Programmes Manager / Peatland Project Manager, SWT
Andrew McBride – SNH
Kate Starkey
Jim Christie – Contractor and Volunteer Warden at WT
David Anderson – RSPB "Futurescapes" and a representative from Vane Farm
Eric Combe – Froglife, Glasgow University

Other possibles are: Peter Matthews (WT), Mike Barnackle or another (P&KC)
Simon Green, Vegetation expert

No-one is coming from Scottish Government and no-one from Edinburgh Council

Running order: .

(1) **Site Visit:** It was agreed that visitors would be taken round a pre-planned route, and suggested that maps be prepared with the route marked out. Gary suggested we should target the areas we most want looked at, bring attention to the problem of seedling birch, leaking open faces of raised area, farmer's ditch along side. It was noted that the worst area of leakage is at the unused field. This requires to be built up.

- Stewart and Jeff to prepare map to show route, location and height of dipwells etc. Stewart will produce a draft map.**

Lesley suggested Peter Matthews' report be circulated.

- Visitors to be taken round as a group. All present were prepared to act as escorts.**
- Points to be raised to be pre-determined: Reference should be made to cut bank, birch regeneration, the three cleared areas, the leaky bits, the dipwells, perimeter conifers and the big ditch dug by the farmer, also Kilmagad and work carried out there.**

- **Route: Walk round edge then over crown from one side to the other, continue round edge and back to opposite Dave's then across the path to return to his house – (footpath shown on old maps).**

(2) **Meeting:**

- **Louise in Chair**
- **Introduction will stress continuity of management.**

1st Presentation Short Keynote speech by Jonny Hughes followed by Q & A.

There was discussion of who would speak on each subject, following proposed..

- **Louise and Jeff will facilitate discussion. Jeff will seek observations on costs.**

2ND Presentation on Birch and Conifer regeneration problem and hydrology followed by Q&A (Could WT person speak to any of the subjects? – Carol Evans or Conservation person.)

3RD Presentation – SNH on Biodiversity and Andrew McBride on ecology/hydrology

4TH Presentation - Community engagement - alternative futures: costs and pointing out that what will be viable depends on funding , followed by Q&A.

Then

Closing Remarks – where do we go now and what to do.

Meeting to end 4.30 pm.

(3) **Administration:**

- Shep will enquire if we can have access to kitchen in advance of meeting and what is latest we have hall for.
- Dave would be prepared to accommodate people at his house if access to hall is not immediately available on conclusion of site visit.
- Stewart to invite Mike Silvera.
- Invitation to Gliding Club.
- John McWilliams to be invited or to send representative.
- Layout - Top table and rest in herringbone arrangement and rows of seats for public. Will need to face screen. Use low-level projector. Projector operator may be required.
- Material required to be on sticks.
- Mike will borrow projector and 12' square screen
- **Sub Committee – Jeff, Louise and Dave.** To finalise running order, speakers etc.

3. Loch Leven Partnership – 2 consultants appointed by partnership and want 3 quotes. Mike has offered these but has not received any forms to complete: he and Lesley are away from Saturday until end of month.. It now appears approximately £3k is required from us. £15k is required for Management Plan. SNH will not fund it they only deal with £50k plus, but they have supplied a list of funding bodies. Boginar may generate some additional information on funding.

4. Burns Supper Article on Burns Supper in November Newsletter.

Helen has confirmed she will do catering for same price as last year. Brian Condie will do bar..

Costs::

- £150 profit is required to cover costs of bar. Beer £2.50 per pt. £1.50 per ½ (Wine **not** to be sold off for £2 when purchase price is £4.)
- Piper £50.
- Buy Whisky ourselves, and get miniatures at reduced price.
- Extra raffle tickets required.
- Stewart to get price from Trojan for A5 flyer. Several local organisations will take leaflet for circulation. **Someone required to design leaflet.**

Savings

- Cut back on free tickets – only 74 were sold last year. Want about 114 total, max 120. List to be compiled of those who get free entry.

- Bring your own bottle.**not** to be permitted
- Ticket price same £23.

Presentation

- Immortal Memory – Crawford Logan
- Dave to ask Festival for loan of lights to enable decent photos to be taken. Should Kinross Camera Club be asked to assist?
- **Stewart to ring Ann Harley to see if larger advertisement is available.in Newsletter.**

Lesley and Mike will not be at Supper – prior engagement.

5. Christmas Trees 16 December.

6. Miscellaneous: Spare land – Brian is happy for PCWG to keep an eye on it and to ask Scotlandwell in Bloom to keep it tidy. He will fence the ground off and leave it for us.

Fauna: Pine Marten tracks seen in Moss. Grey squirrel seen on edge of Moss.

Volunteer: Shep is WT registered volunteer.

RSPB It was noted that RSPB is trying to raise £51m. to save all raised bogs in Scotland.

Next meetings:

(1) Pre-Boginar meeting: 13 Nov. The Well.

(2) Regular meeting 20 Nov.