

PORTMOAK COMMUNITY WOODLAND GROUP

MINUTES OF MEETING

held at The Well Inn, Scotlandwell

on

19<sup>th</sup> February 2013

Present: Jeff Gunnell (in chair)  
Mike McGinness  
Stuart Garvie  
Dave Carruthers  
Elaine Carruthers  
Gary Bolton  
Jim Shepherd  
Alison Bradley

Apologies: Lesley Botten

Lindsay Hall wants numbers for the Community Wetlands event at Lenzie Moss.

Woodland Trust Update: Gary reported that the Dragonfly man will be visiting. The plan of work for Moss going really well with SNH. Approved, Contractor recruited – has worked for Gary previously and is good, Gary and Andrew have swapped experiences! Contractor has inspected site and is ready to start – “Higher fuel Forrestry”. Separate Consultant’s Report – specialist company, but name not known, Gary has contacted contractor today to do risk assessment. They will meet on site to check this out, Area on right hand side of path to be cleared of scrub. Gary mentioned that the Xmas trees would need to be discussed with PCMW. These are a useful source of revenue to the organisation. Gary will see if they can respace trees to improve growth, A number have been coppiced in the past. Contractors will carry out 2 phase operation, first cutting the scrub back and in a separate operation will spray any re-growth with glyphosate. The left hand side of the path may be tackled next year. Gary will check if the thick bit on the outside edge is scheduled to be cleared. 46 new dams are to be installed. The consultant is to look especially at the exposed peat faces. Gary reported that Tim has looked at things again and can see lots of positive gains. Stuart wondered if entire raised part of bog is under consideration. Gary will produce school parties to work on left hand side, digging, pruning etc. for, say, 2 days at a time. The children come from Falkirk and Gary will supervise.

Funding: Gary (personally) feels funding should be put in where there is something specific, Carol and Tim are coming round to this and also with working with the SNH. WT has problem of getting funding for non-woodland activities while called “Woodland Trust”. Its remit will probably expand as time goes on, as has happened with RSPB. The Moss has a special plant and invertebrate community – more the remit of SNH. If all this works then WT should become more comfortable. Gary has a time problem.

Time commitment required for ownership is beyond PCMW – Louise has been swamped with emails since the Boginar as has Gary. The Community has limited to zero expertise on woodland/bogland management. Andrew McBride offers a safety net. No human back-up within PCMW and no income stream Tim Hall has offered to pay us. PCMW has vested interest, but individuals have their own lives to organise. Would it be possible to get a paid manager for, say, a half day per week? Mike reckoned we would be in a better position to fundraise from Lottery etc. Spread fundraising among various participating bodies, us, WT, SNH etc.

Gary suggested that once the current instalment of work is completed then we should co-ordinate on next phase of Management Plan Area outwith bog will revert naturally, but willow will not out-compete bog – deer and sheep will cull it when young. Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership – Mike has submitted the stuff again and thinks it is going to the Lottery. Living Lomonds Landscape Partnership’s budget seems to be jumping around. Our application for £6k seems to be through as part of LLLP – shall hear in June. Our contribution will be largely paid in kind, Able to contribute c. £500.

**Lenzie Bog** is slumping towards town, AMcB hoping to have it revetted. Little has been done until now.  
**18<sup>th</sup> April visit to Lenzie**, Jeff will advise AMcB.

George G... dragonfly man – detailed types seen. Some special butterflies. Interesting beetles. Over what period has he been noting these?. Is range of varieties improving? **Ge George G to talk to us about what he has seen.** ... has approached George and done risk assessment and he is ready to go. If he is good get him to give public lecture at Hall.

**NEXT MEETING: List potential volunteer groups and kind of work being done,**

Activities: Fruit Tree pruning. – most places filled. Julie and Richard's mature trees available (Craigard).  
Easter egg hunt coupled with guided walk. ) Gary will promote these on) **AGREED**  
Teddy Bear picnic - encourage Parent & Toddler Group to attend) Woodland Trust website. ) Booking essential!

PMCW will liaise with Gary.

**BURNS SUPPER** – Shep has not got the full figures yet. Awaiting bank statement. The balance on the account currently stands at £3,132.07 including a payment to Woodland Trust of £200 for siting of Viewpoint Indicator (not related to Supper). Louise has the full figures plus all receipts.

Wine – this was delivered but no-one knew where it had been put. Cases of red and white wine looked the same. The apparent shortage was because it was in the kitchen (not easy of access). It was agreed we should buy bottled water next year, Next year serve red at room temperature, and have put in hall on delivery. Sandy supplied his wine on sale or return (Markinch Gallery). One barrel of beer ordered – ran out,

Running order – Shep suggested we start meal earlier or shorten the speeches, It was agreed that the Toast to the Lassies and the Reply were both far longer than they should have been. Speeches should be kept to ten minutes.

Bill Carr – Secret party to celebrate his retirement – piper. **Suggested WT pay c. £50 for piper.** Bill has never charged for his efforts at Burns Supper.

Banking: Additional signatories required – Stuart Garvie and Alison Bradley – any one of three may sign.