

MINUTES OF MEETING OF PORTMOAK COMMUNITY WOODLAND GROUP held on 18. 11. 14

PRESENT: Jeff Gunnell (chair) Dave Batchelor, Louise Batchelor, Lesley Botten, Michael McGinnes, Alison Bradley, Elaine Carruthers, Dave Carruthers, Gary Bolton (WTS).

APOLOGIES: Karen McDonnell, Jim Shepherd.

1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Approved by committee

2. WOODLAND UPDATE: Gary Bolton of Woodland Trust Scotland reported that Scottish Natural Heritage are happy with the mulching work in the Moss, carried out in August, and that the contractor had been paid. Everyone agreed that the Moss looked a lot wetter. M McG said the main drain, now mulched over, was causing some problems at the edge of the peat dome to the left of the path, with water pouring out. Is there a danger of bank collapse? It may have to be blocked up. GB said he had contractors coming who may be able to howk out a couple of drains from the dry zone. It might be difficult to get a machine in but the contractor may be able to install a couple of drains or do some refill by hand. The contractor would be repairing a badly damaged rustic bridge and carrying out other bridge and footpath works. Louise B was concerned that, at some point, the main bridge on the dome could be swamped, as water levels rise. GB said it may be possible to raise it with ramps and extra sleepers. **Action** GB will put up signs warning of deep water across the bog. JG reported community council concerns about the muddy state of the Grahamstone end entrance to Portmoak Moss and **Action** GB would see what could be done. WTS have installed a new gate on the hill above Kilmagad Wood. Meanwhile, in the Moss, woodland group members had re-spread the sphagnum saved before the start of mulching.

3. LIVING LOMONDS LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP: JG had circulated latest update from consultant Robin Payne and needed to arrange a meeting with PCWG before the public consultation on 5.12.14. He has subsequently confirmed it'll be on Tuesday 2 December at 19:00 at his house, Kilmagadwood Farm House. **Action** LB and DB to do 6 posters advertising the public drop-in session. LB had written a piece for Kinross Community Newsletter and thanks to JG, Portmoak Community Council had included the meeting in their minutes. Lesley B will update the number of volunteer hours done by members of the group and report to LLLP. M McG said European Leader funding might be a useful source in future.

4. ORCHARD: **Action** LB still to contact appletreeman about an apple I.D. day next year. M McG said we needed better signs for the trees, maybe metal? The calendar of events, agreed at October's meeting for both the orchard, Kilmagad Wood and the Moss, would be publicised at the Burns Supper.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT: Lesley B reported that the bank balance was unchanged at £2, 806.02

6. XMAS TREES: The event will be from 11am-1pm on Sunday 14th Dec. A triangular path has been created. **Actions** SG to bring high vis vests on the day. Trees to be supplied to parish churches by Dec 11th (DB and DC). DC to supply tree to Well Inn. DB and LB to supply 2 trees to Lochend. M McG to supply tree to his museum. SG to make mulled wine. LB making shortbread. Lesley bringing mince pies, plastic cups and collecting tin. JG to email list of contacts. LB to do posters. AB to do direction arrows. Also, DB and DC to try to remove old woodland sign from Moss entrance.

7. BURNS SUPPER: Colin Fox to give the Immortal Memory. Dr Bill Carr, Address to the Haggis. Mike Lithgow and Gerry Marshall to provide music. Lynne Hope will play the piano. **Actions** : LB to ask K Robertson to sponsor the whisky. DC or EC to ask Stuart Kale to supply the beer. JG to get wine from Markinch. DB to get tickets by end of November. Jim Shepherd to be asked to set up the beer barrel and organise piper . (DB has seen JS and taken over organising the piper). DB to ask Lochend to do the catering (and Helen has agreed to do it).

8. AOB: Arrangements made to attend the Kinross Civic Trust environmental award ceremony, 19.11.14, which we've entered.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 16TH December 7.30pm Well Country Inn.