

Minutes of Meeting of Portmoak Community Woodland Steering Group held on 16th June 2015

Present: Gary Bolton, Lesley Botten, Alison Bradley, Stuart Garvie, Jeff Gunnell and Mike McGuinness

Apologies: Dave and Louise Batchelor, Dave and Elaine Carruuthers, Chris and Charlotte Vlasto

1. Woodland Trust: Gary reported (a) that bridge at SW of Moss is being renewed and more wind-blown trees removed. It was agreed that the wind-blown fence does not belong to WT. Trees at risk of re-erecting themselves to be sawn. Larches over-hanging path to be cut down. (b) Ladder boards are being produced – one to be erected on Michael Bruce Way. (c) St Andrew's University is considering research project on Moss – survey of pollen using corer. Satellites and Hydro meeting with Gary and St Andrew's University to be arranged. (d) SNH considering taking aerial photos, possibly with drone, no date yet fixed. (e) On Kilmagad paths have been cut back and weed control carried out. Next year it is hoped to carry out planting where rabbit netting has been removed. (f) Gary hopes to begin drafting the WT Management Plan in September and will present it to WT at the start of 2016. A discussion followed wherein Gary explained WT's approach and Jeff indicated PWCG's hopes subject to funding being available.
2. Educational Materials: Margery did this. Smiths currently abroad. A link to list of bogs using information provided by Margery will be put on website.
3. Hydrology: All dipwells prepared, markers in position – two original wells to be located. Stuart hopes to get all wells installed in next month – requires assistance.
4. Moss identification: End of August proposed for walk.
5. Peatlands: Scottish Government Natural Peatlands Strategy: Louise informed Carol of proposed event, but election intervened. It may still proceed. Gary has spoken to "Des" and is awaiting information. Louise is monitoring situation.
6. Meeting with Andrew McBride: A different date will be required.
7. Sign – Stuart is still trying to get this.
8. The path along the side of the ditch at the Nw corner of the Moss is to be reinstated. It is hoped LLLP will support this. WT will remove gate and firm up base.
9. "Twinning" – liaison with Cumbria Wildlife Trust – Alison has not yet progressed this.
10. Red Squirrels: Gary reported a picture had been taken of a red squirrel swimming in Loch Leven. Noted that pine martens are expanding their range and predate on greys. Greys use River Tay as "motorway" and no attempt is being made to restrict their progress.
11. Map in pub: Jeff is awaiting map and will send image for printing to A2 size. Stuart has prepared frame.
12. LLLP - Apple Day: Deadline for application for £500 funding is 3rd July. Andrew Lear hires out apple masher at £25. His charge for visiting is £120 per half day plus £69 travel. Village Hall (still to be booked) will cost £20 and estimated cost of flyers, posters etc. £70 - £100. Proposed WRI be asked to produce Cream Tea – cost? Total c. £450. Aim for 40 people attending.
13. Treasurer's Report: Transactions since 21 April 2015

PAID OUT TO

Fife Coast & Countryside Trust 2,250

Wellside Power Wash	75
Balance in bank at 15.6.15	3,997.26
Petty cash in hand	<u>£21.92</u>

FOR APPROVAL AT THE MEETING

Pay to:

Lesley Botten	20.00	for tank for bog for Discovery Day*
Michael McGinnes	18.89	chocolate frogs for ditto

* Subsequent to preparation of this report, Alison bought tank for £20.00.

14. Appletree Day – See 12. above. Village hall to be booked. WRI to be contacted. Flyers and Posters to be ordered.
15. Grass Cut.
16. No action required.
17. Lantern Event: Gary will discuss this with Jill on Friday. Requires to find £3.5k. He is trying to arrange local sponsorship. A nominal charge (say £3 per family) will be made on this occasion.
18. CWA Conference in Argyll 22nd and 23rd August at Dunoon.
19. Flanders Moss: It was agreed cars would be used. Jeff will call Kate re access.
20. Discovery Day: Mike gave report. It was deemed “good”. Met other groups. Mike will supply paragraph for web.
21. Butterflies: Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary doing OK. Stuart said some butterflies and moths, eg those which require assistance of ants to complete life cycle, have been lost but may come back.

Meeting ended: 9.35pm