

Minutes

PORTMOAK COMMUNITY WOODLANDS GROUP

May 16, 2017 7.30pm The Well Country Inn

Present: Graham Smith, Marge Smith, Elaine Carruthers, Jeff Gunnel, Stuart Byers, Nic Kennedy, Sheena Jamieson, Mike McGinnes, Lesley Botton, Stuart Garvie.

Apologies: Dave & Louise Batchelor, Dave Carruthers, Chloe, Gary.

1. Minutes of AGM on 17th April were agreed by the meeting.
2. BTO ringing birds at Kilmagadwood, could we find out when, as some of us may want to see how it's done. Ask Louise if she has the contact number.
3. Year of History; Time machine on the Moss 23rd July. Taking a peat core on the raised bog.
4. Nic recommended the Ray Mears programme on peat bogs would be well worth watching.

Woodland Trust Update

1. Gary still off after his op but should be back soon.
2. Nic & Stu pointed out that orchids growing next to the path on the Moss are in grave danger of being strimmed as was their fate last year. Have a word with Gary and perhaps mark out the area.
3. Discuss with Gary about what the best course of action would be regarding fires in the Moss.
4. Tree Poppers: the test left us rather underwhelmed given the amount of regen on the Moss. Jeff to estimate the time required to clear a square metre using the popper, this should allow a better estimate for the whole area.
5. A regen clearing event may be more effective. We should involve SNH, other volunteer groups and our contacts in the community for a full day's work with the usual refreshments. Mike to speak to the 'Bog Squad' when he takes back the tree popper.
6. Christmas tree pruning was a success, 12 workers. Sheena volunteered to go back and throw the cuttings and discarded trees into the ditches.

Memorial for Chris

We received a very generous amount of money from the collection at Chris's funeral. We drew up a rough list of ways in which we could remember Chris.

1. Living shelter (trees with seat).
2. Outdoor classroom (speak to school).
3. Plant tree.
4. Name part of Moss or hill.
5. Name one of our events.
6. Perches
7. Seat on hill (near old seat)

To be discussed further.

Peatland Action Plan

It was agreed we should have a 'ready to go' shopping list if any money comes our way. That could include continuing the re-profiling, ponds, replanting in clear fell area. We should organize a meeting with Andrew and/or Denise from SNH. Also suggested was some 'Citizen Science' or ongoing monitoring of the area to be clear felled, starting now.

Apple day

Book Appleman for 1st October or thereabouts. Dave, Louise and Jeff delegated.

AOB

Sheena asked about the car park. Community Council claim that money is in place, do we have any more info?

Elaine reported that Dave had cut the grass at the orchard and suggested he should cut every month. This was agreed.