

Minutes PORTMOAK COMMUNITY WOODLANDS GROUP
July 18th 2017 7.30pm The Well Country Inn

1. Present Marje, Graham, Mike, Lesley, Stuart G, Dave, Louise, Alison, Sylvia.
2. Apologies Nicola, Stuart, Jeff, Sheena, Calum, Dave C, Elaine C, Gary B.
3. Minutes. .
4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda.
Michael has a 'Calum' Rowan which will be planted in the Autumn.
Orchids – no action
5. Woodland Trust update and latest on the Management Plan (report of meeting on Monday 17th June).
No update at the moment – if one appears it will be distributed.

Louise reported on a meeting she and Jeff attended at Woodland Trust Scotland HQ in Perth on Monday 17th July.

They saw Gary Bolton, Site Manager for Portmoak Moss and Roy Barlow, Operations Manager for Scotland. Louise said they had a constructive discussion. The starting point was WTS comments on our response to the new 5 year management plan for the Moss. The meeting covered four topics: Forestry Commission/SNH guidance on management options for deep peat, especially after the planned clear felling; how to get to a sustainable position on the peat bog restoration project; what other funding might be available from Peatland Action (SNH) and what the clear felled area might eventually look like.

As a result of the discussion, WTS will try to include some links to FC guidance, although they said that basically the whole management plan had to comply with the guidance. They said the guidance allowed for natural regeneration of e.g. birch, as it was all about getting a carbon balance. PCWG thought that WTS were too negative in their outlook for the future of the main restoration project. WTS said they had to keep their options open and review the project after 5 years. They said they were committed to trying to make it work. They will remove some of the negative language from the paragraph about the sustainability of the bog. On apply-

ing for more funding, a limiting factor for them was staff time. For them, priorities were further re-profiling and scrub control. On the vision for the clear-felled area, they weren't planning to do any tree control but there would be wide 'rides' which they would maintain and they were looking at some wetland areas. They didn't want to create any more deep water hazards in the Moss, or risk accidentally draining any water from the raised dome. Gary was about to complete his work plan for 2018 so we agreed to try to set up a site meeting with Andrew McBride, Peatland Action, to discuss what projects they might fund for next year.

6. PCWG report for WT (unsafe trees/bridges etc)

Another step broken on the north steps.

Dog Poo – again?

Deer in the Field Abin the Kirk eating the fruit trees. What to do.

7. SEPA volunteering day. No news

8. PCW update (dipwell data etc) Dry at the moment.

9. Treasurer's report. Details to follow.

10. Chris's project. £1100-odds, ring-fenced for the Chris memorial. Pictures of various seats supplied by Stuart. Tell Jimmy Lowden we'd like him to do the Laser Measurement. Debate about the shape of the area to be flattened. Deadline of spring next year.

11. Events update:

Time machine, 23 July,

Dragonfly count - Mike 23 July.

Apple day, October 1st. Who does the catering? Us and raise money.

Burns Supper. Tich Frier has had to withdraw. Still need caterers.

12. AOB

Let's Talk Bogs – Marje. Planning a Pilot event with all the schools surrounding Loch Leven. She has agreement from the primary team.

Michael needs photographs of the bogs.