

MINUTES PORTMOAK COMMUNITY WOODLANDS GROUP

November 21st 2017 7.30pm The Well Country Inn

1. Present - Graham Smith, Marje Smith, Alison Bradley, Louise Batchelor, John Whiteford, Stu Byers, Dave Batchelor, Michael McGinnes, Sheena Jamieson, Dave Carruthers, Stuart Garvie, Elaine Carruthers, Jeff Gunnell
2. Apologies - Charlotte Vlasto, Chloe Vlasto, Nic Cassidy, Calum, Gary Bolton, Lesley Botten
3. Minutes:accepted
4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere in the agenda.
 - A SEPA volunteering for birch extraction – 6 Plus us – 10 ish folk a'thegither. February, March ish
 - B Elite team attempted to measure the amount of effort needed to extract the birch. 250 person hours to clear the north birch scrub we reckon . Not seen as an impossible task. Jeff proposed not to complete the task but to compare with the WT poisoning the rest. Biscuits were very good. Things to do. Hire a glopeta glopeta machine to dispose of the pulled treelets, buy a tape measure, contact the bog group and SEPA
 - C Primary School want to spend time in the 'wood.' Louise is communicating with the heidie, and Marje with the deputy heidie. Marje will liase about the the Chris memorial area and seek their input.
5. Succession planning. April is the date for change. Nominations and suggestions welcome.
6. Woodland Trust update. Gary is going to be off till the spring. We have given him our love and best wishes.

His Update. "The contractor informs me he will be starting work on replacing the old gates with new ones today. The new ones will be a little wider than previous to improve machine access in the future. Hence, the pedestrian access point will be moved a little more to the left and the ground built up at this point to improve accessibility. He hopes to have the job completed by Wednesday. Access will remain open.

The rhododendron control carried out in the summer behind the shabby chic curling pond structure has been pretty effective. Any regrowth will be spot sprayed next summer."

His dep is Jill who is 'further up the tree' (Alison). Jeff will email Jill to air the following.

 - A – We never saw a final management plan.
 - B – We'll try and carry more of the burden but safety issues like hanging trees will still be her purvue.

- C – We're planning a popping and pulling campaign but we'll need some Glyphosate wiping done.
 - D – Chris's project will continue and we'll organize it and pay for it.
 - E – Invite her to the Burns supper.
 - F – Also invite Carol Evans.
 - G – And the Christmas Tree event.
 - H - Jeff will talk to Jill about fund raising possibilities. Reprofiling or lag fen creation are options
- 7 . PCWG report for WT (unsafe trees/bridges etc) Jeff to tabulate list of things to do.
 8. PCWG update (dipwell data etc) The expert team have been out. Sheena may get more dipwells to monitor the change in water levels after the trees are removed in a couple of years.
Stuart visited the gliding field and discovered a SEPA weather station, info from which is available on line. Whoopee. Zed Goudie is going to extract relevant info from the gliding union.
 9. Pulling and popping. See above. Jeff will order a giant size tree popper.
 10. Let's Talk Bogs update. Marje has been in touch with the deputy heidie – see above. Been to SSERC (?) and they'll send out the bumf to all the relevant schools. Lochend farm will host the post bog events. 4 dates – to follow. December – Assoc of science teachers – from all over Scotland. 'A Bog near You' Could end up wi bairns fae a' ower Scotland in Portmoak Moss. Jeff will inform Andrew McBride. We are at the moment in the pilot phase of the project.
 11. Treasurer's report. Lesley brought to our attention fund raising possibilities.

CWA e-bulletin Nov
2017 (1).pdf

Reprofiling or lag fen creation are options. Jeff will contact Andrew with irresistible offers. Louise will check funding deadlines.

**Portmoak Community Woodland Group
Treasurer's Report : 21 November 2017**

Balance in the bank on 20 Oct 2017	£5,760.00
Debits since then:	896.06
Credits since then:	zero
Sub total	£4,863.94
<i>ringfenced for Chris Vlasto</i>	<i>1,170.00</i>

Available balance:

£3,693.94

Debits are:

Scotlandwell in Bloom	£25.00 (marquee hire)
Louise Batchelor	£9.90 (cups for Apple Day)
A Martin	£321.00 (tree popper)
K Bayne/Extraordinary Eating	£291.80 (deposit for Burns Supper catering)
Portmoak Livery Stables	£200.00 (materials for road repairs)
Jeff Gunnell	£48.36 (Silky saw)

LICENCE FOR BURNS SUPPER - I have successfully applied for the Occasional Licence for the Burns Supper (will submit a claim for the £10 next time).

12. Chris's project. Saturday 18th Nov. Laser measuring of the space was done by Jimmy Loudon and Simon Byford with Louise standing admiringly by. Simon has the measurements and he's writing them up. Next stage is the contractor.

13. Events update:

Xmas trees, 17th Dec. Dave to send info to Mike. Food will be cooked. Stuart will provide gallons of hot juice. Day before for prep 1400. Marking tape Stewart. Tarp on the day. Donation bucket fae Lesley. Laminated Arrows from a'b'dy. Louise to do Posters. Stewart will send email on catering. Cups fae Louise and Stu. Burns supper leaflets.

Burns Supper. Dave to send info to Mike. Stuart and somebody will do the tickets and seats. Beer. Whisky. Raffle, singing along. Ceilidh band? Lassies and reply. Dave to book the piper. Bring Lesley's list to the next meeting. Leaflets and tickets printed tomorrow.

14. Cloud storage/ mailing lists including status Stu has set up a Google drive space for the group and will put stuff on. List of lists.

15. AOB.

A – The northern steps. John proposes losing a set of rails and building a ramp for all abilities access not necessarily entirely homo sapiens. General support. Next steps are with WT.

B - Elizabeth Porters wain. Dave to write to Elizabeth saying we'll help however we can.