

## Minutes

### PORTMOAK COMMUNITY WOODLANDS GROUP

February 20th 2018, 7.30pm The Well Country Inn

Present: Lesley Botten, Alison Bradley, Nicola Carmichael, Dave Carruthers, Elaine Carruthers, Stuart Garvie, Jeff Gunnell, Sheena Jamieson, Michael McGinnes and Cara Wood, geography student, University of St Andrews.

Apologies: Dave & Louise Batchelor, Nicola Carmichael & Callum, Gary Bolton, Charlotte McKinnon, Marje & Graham Smith John Whiteford.

Thank you Charlotte for buying a round of drinks in your absence. We toasted Chris for you and Chloe.

1. WOODLAND TRUST UPDATE: none. **Michael** to find out how Garry is.
2. PCWG report for WT: we discussed repair of the steps from road opposite church car park up to the Michael Bruce Way and then remembered that they perhaps do not belong to the Woodland Trust! **Jeff** to contact Paths Group. **PCWG** agreed to contribute funds for materials if needed. **Michael** to investigate repair to gate to community orchard. [UPDATE: Michael's had a look and not a one person job]. **Michael** to report to Jill at WT that another trench has been dug on the Moss – this one adjacent to the footpath that we'd already installed drainage under. Viz the ditches dug on the peat dome – **Louise** do you think you could put some explanation into next Newsletter report explaining why this is not helpful?
3. PCWG UPDATE : DIPWELLS : **Stuart G** to send data to Jeff.
4. TREASURERS REPORT : Available balance in bank: £6,283.73.
5. BURNS SUPPER REVIEW: Congratulations to everyone for another successful event. Catering: quality of food very good but service was so slow it delayed the proceedings by an hour. Some problems: inexperienced waiting staff, caterer over ambitious in amount of time needed to plate up, hall kitchen equipment not up to the job, the vegetarians were all served their food first meaning that they ate their meals out of synch with the people around them. Suggested mitigation: one of the committee take on the role of event/catering management on the night. Kitchen ovens tripped the circuit board and the lights went out. **Louise** ... can you tell Wendy that this is a safety issue that needs investigation? Caterer for next year: Helen apparently wants to do it but on her own terms. To be investigated: PCWG purchase crockery and cutlery to be kept at the hall and to cut down caterer's costs and make the job more attractive to them. Mosses, Waters ... this should really come earlier on in the programme. The bar: it was agreed that Ian Buchanan should have his ticket money refunded as he didn't get to eat any of the meal. **All**: at March meeting set up a group to consider the future delivery of the Burns Supper. **Lesley** update the BS accounts to show 1 ticket refund via Jeff plus refund to Ian and circulate.
6. PULLING AND POPPING: SEPA volunteering might be in two parties of 6 staff each. Dates put forward 19<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> March and 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> March. **Sheena** to confirm dates with colleagues. Idea would be 6 SEPA plus 3 PCWG members. Suggestion: start at 9am at the Well Inn provide breakfast, safety briefing at the pub. Ask volunteers to bring own sandwiches for lunch, PCWG provide hot drinks and cake. **Jeff** to

Speak to the Well Inn once dates fixed. **Elaine** to speak to John W about possible use of his hut. BOG SQUAD – agreed we should offer them a weekend event. **Michael** to suggest to them either 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> April or 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> April. Remember to check with WT that chemical application not yet started. **Jeff** buy loppers and more Silke saws.

## 7. AOB

7.1. PEATLAND FUNDING: SNH has more peatland funding. **Jeff** to contact Andrew McBride inviting him to a meeting with Jeff and Michael to discuss the next steps in developing a plan to secure funding including developing a full landscape plan for the moss.

7.2. ORCHARD : agreed that Dave C should continue to cut the grass until WT give permission to make the outdoor learning area. We can't go any further with Chris Vlasto's project until Garry, WT, returns to work. **All**: Pruning apple trees: Sunday 25 Feb at 2pm.

7.3. FOR NEXT MEETING : AGM (April meeting), Himalayan balsam, all abilities path (John W), Burns Supper alternative delivery methods.

8.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm