

PCWG Meeting on the 17th of April 2018

Woodland Group attendees: Marjorie, Graham, Jeff, John, Mike, Louise, Dave B, Stuart, Charlotte, Allison, Stu, Sheena, Dave C.

Woodland Trust attendee: Matilda Scharsach

Apologies: Nic caring, Lesley speaking Spanish, Callum teething, Elaine working hard

Briefing from Woodland Trust - insurance and volunteers. WT looking to formalise way in which they work with other groups of volunteers. Two options.

One - WT does not have access to current agreement with the PWG. Any agreement needs to be reviewed and revised as we operate as an independent volunteer group and PWG would need to sign a 3rd party agreement and take ownership for insuring and managing our own volunteers. This would allow us to avoid having to conform to the process and tools of the WT. Do we want to be 3rd party volunteers?

Two - Alternative is that PWG work as volunteers to the WT but adhere to the rules and policies and receive insurance. We would have ability to attend WT group events and get all sorts of goodies but would need a two day first aid training course for two leaders in our group. What else are we expected to do?

PWG believe that we were previously insured by the WT as volunteers, as they requested copies of all our events - this may not be the case. We would need public liability insurance worth 2 million? How much does this cost? Matilda will share details of similar 3rd party groups with insurance.

We are currently not insured and we cannot continue to work as volunteers unless we take out the interim position of being WT volunteers. We need to make a rapid decision given pending activities - bog squad and teacher training. Short term solution is for us to sign up as occasional volunteers - holding pattern until final decision on the two options. PWG need to complete these forms asap upon receipt from Matilda. These forms need to be completed and returned to Matilda by the 26th of April.

Matilda to provide details on the two alternatives so PWG can reach a decision.
PWG to review and discuss options at next PWG meeting.

Last set of minutes 22nd of March

- Gary looking for visitors
- Path group advise that WT need to repair steps leading up to the Portmoak wood. Path groups want to create a more complete plan of work post WT repairs. PWG will meet with Paths Group to discuss next steps with WT
- Gate at sheep pens now shuts but some timbers still need replaced - for WT action and to be added to Gill's list

- Popper - we now have 2. Do we need more before the autumn ?
- Trying to access Peatland Action funding - Jeff to contact them again

Matters not covered in the agenda

- Abigail Lloyd happy with support
- Xmas tree pruning is now overdue - need a new date
- Two dates for xmas tree event in 2018

Bog Squad on 29th of April - numbers unknown. Need to complete task risk assessment for this event. Need interim occasional volunteer form to be completed. Sheena, Charlotte, Mike, Stu, Graham and Marje will also attend. ? Jeff

Chris's Project

Need to put out to tender to get proper cover. A tender document has been drafted with a sketched plan. Tender document needs to provide clear scope of work. This document will go to contractors who are currently used by the WT. Need WT to review the document to ensure it is appropriate. Gill needs to conduct the review in Gary's absence. Matilda will look at the document and discuss with WT - will advise on any changes needed. Review progress at the next meeting.

Any other business

- Sheena - short dated drinks in hall. Will be used at the next community event - the Gala
- Please do not use Stuart to identify birds! Osprey versus White Tailed Eagle??
- Need to engage Portmoak Festival and look to set up a public event - Louise and Dave to reach out to George and the festival
- Himalayan Balsum - John to advise on when to attack this and to organise - volunteers needed with tools
- Multi use ramp. Unlikely to proceed until we have WT site manager.
- PWG leaflets needed for the teacher training event.
- Do not put popped trees into ditches whole – mulching them is ideal. Just continue to do what we have done for the time being
- Invite speakers to share insights on bogs/science of our work and its wider relevance.? Link with another event?

Meeting finished at 09.35