

Minutes of Woodland Group 17th November 2020 – Zoom meeting

Present: Louise, Batch, Stuart, Jeff, Mike, Lesley, Sheena, Dave and Elaine C, Nic (joined half way through Christmas Trees), Stu (briefly)

Apologies: Marjorie and Graham, Gary of the WT, Charlotte

WTS update - Gary emailed as not able to attend this meeting.

ACTIONS: **Stuart** will respond to the main points, including those around the Christmas Tree event (see below) and **Louise** will respond about the Kilmagad Wood booklet.

PCWG Report to WT: nothing

Treasurers report: Actual bank balance at 26 October 2020 £5,500.85

Transactions since last meeting: Wellside Power Wash (2 orchard mows) £60.00

Donation received (not yet banked): Dr Jenny Macleod, specifically to be spent on The Moss improvement work; a thank you for the enjoyment and relaxation she derives from walking there. £50.00. Treasurer sent a note of thanks. Jenny is happy for her name to be included in the minutes but doesn't want any other thanks or publicity.

Kilmagad Wood Replacement Sign Board

Update from Louise via WT: process will be (1) approved by Gary (2) content to designer (3) draft design shared with the Group. Kilmagadwood Booklet on hold until draft design is seen by us.

Dipwell Data - Jeff showed us latest data on our website in the "ecology" section.

Additional Sign Board featuring the Orchard

ACTION FOR ALL: send good quality digital photos of current group members in the Orchard to Louise by Friday 27 November.

Style or gate North side of Moss (Dave B) : take forward to next meeting

Portmoak Primary School, John Muir Award

Sheena reported that Headteacher interested in finding a way for pupils to work towards this award using Portmoak Moss next Spring. Michael also had an approach via Facebook.

Christmas Tree Pick Up Day

Gary responded to Michael's questions about the event with conditions under which WT would be happy for it to go ahead.

- Mike raised some important points e.g. "Thoughts are that we cut down trees and let folk come and collect them. May need to do this over two days to limit the numbers at any time. I suspect we would get about 5 people per hour that way. We would only need two of us at the tree bit to control it. No catering. We are thinking of using the second path to the right and creating a one-way system. Being discussed at meeting tonight."
- Further to Mike's email I discussed the proposal with colleagues and our H&S dept. The Trusts view is: At the moment and as long as restrictions stay as they are in our region it is agreed that the Christmas tree event 2020 can take place at Portmoak Moss.
- In order for the event to take place the Trust will require assurance:
- That collection is supervised, there is to be no onsite catering & a one-way system is adopted – *already assured*.

- That the trees are felled and laid out by the group in accordance with our new Covid RA and guidelines, i.e. the pods of people working at waving distance, etc.
- The trees are to be cut well in advance and are to be laid out far enough apart to avoid bottlenecks / groups of people.
- That payment of the trees is by contactless payment if possible.
- There is a sentence in the advert promoting the event that states; people must adhere to the latest Government rules in relation to Covid 19 e.g. social distancing and number of households etc.

DECIDED to stick to one day Sunday 13 December but with extended hours.

Acknowledged that we need to have the plan in place whilst always taking account of changes in Government Covid guidelines.

ACTIONS: **JEFF** will surveymonkey the email list about our “Pick Up a Xmas Tree” (it isn’t an event) having done a test run of it with Group members.

STUART will develop a more detailed suggested plan with **Michael** and then **STUART** will circulate it to the Group in good time for further discussion on 1st December.

JEFF will convene a special Zoom on 1st December 2020 for further planning for all those able to attend.

Himalayan Balsam: nothing to report.

AOB

- Michael reported meeting potential new Group member – the Walshes of Milnathort and that several people had also offered their services for future activities via Facebook.
 - Louise planted a thought around blogging wildlife sightings
 - Birch sapling removal continuing by individual members, Michael will improve the markers.
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Date of next meeting 15.12.20
