

Minutes of Woodland Group 18th May 2021 – Zoom meeting

Attendees: Louise, Dave, Stuart, Jeff, Mike, Lesley, Marjorie, Graham, Charlotte, Sheena, Elaine and Dave, Nic and Stu, Tanji (who was welcomed to her 1st meeting)

Apologies: Gary

WTS update

- Gary still to discuss with Colin re application for Peatland Action to mend leaking ditches. **Stuart** to check if new application
- New Bridge south of path done – **Stuart** to thank WTS– **Louise** to write piece in newsletter to thank them
- Delapidated Log cabin not removed yet, **Stuart** to check with Gary if we should make it safe in meantime.
- Spraying of grass round moss done, respraying of brash on moss scheduled for August when weather warmer and more foliage on saplings.
- Dodgy trees round limekiln – still awaiting survey from tree surgeon
- Deer Fence not yet removed, but signs gone up to say that it is happening and why. (*update* since meeting – now been removed)

PCWG report

Moss Leaflets – Nic and Stu still awaiting supplies– **Stuart** to chase Gary - **Louise** can provide some in meantime.

2 **St Andrews students** doing borings on Portmoak moss and other bogs as part of course.

Dog poo problem– especially bad from gate to fork in path. **All** Need to think best way to raise awareness...Postiive or negative notices? Research which ones most efficient.

Reprofiling/Tree felling NW moss – need to discuss at next meeting

PR to be done in good time before work starts (need 2 months notice from Gary prior to work commencing.) Need to explain why work required in addition to H&S leaflets.

Alternative path so public can do complete loop. How will Core path at Grahamstone entrance be affected? Signage. **Stuart** to liaise with Gary to find out what involved and Implications if have to close path whilst work being done.

Treasurer's report

Actual bank balance at 26 April 2021 **£5,764.79**

Transactions since last meeting

Interest earned	0.69
Just Giving Xmas fund transferred in	259.41

Cheque issued to Marje Smith for the booklet dispense but not yet cashed	£13.29
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Ali will again kindly supervise this years accounts till end March.

Updates

Gate into Moss from Kilmagadwood. - Stevie will try and do next week (weather permitting). **Dave** will liaise with farmer to transport wood. Could leave in Jeff's barn till ready. Access to gate across field – farmer has been assured that there won't be increase in traffic – just for Kilmagad folk already using to avoid need to go over fence. Will try and ensure not obvious from moss path. Will put up fundraising note on gate.

Kilmagad interpretation board (same site as old one) - Kirsty can't send as still with designer. Marje did reekie for location of new orchard board and suggests we put it on right as go in, opposite side to interpretation board.

Website revamp – volunteer will aim to make it more modern in keeping with similar sites first draft will be available to view by next meeting. **All** Check other similar websites for ideas ASAP

Ideas for format

- will use colours from our new logo,
- members only section eg for risk assessment forms,
- Create several superusers who are able to maintain website.
- DDA compatible for accessibility
- Hits counter to monitor how many folk view it

Ideas for content

- Photogallery (resource archive)
- news items
- audio clips of birdsong etc from soundcloud
- short videos via utube
- 'Blog'/newsletter monthly
- Resource of moss maintenance history easily accessed.
- Interactive maps
- revamp contacts page,
- link to Instagram account

Green Prescribing

scheme being developed by doctors to reduce antidepressant use for folk with minor depression, or feeling low and lacking confidence after isolation of lockdown. Idea is to encourage folk out of their homes to engage in local community activities. They want to get it started ASAP and are asking local groups to notify them of any suitable activities with which these 'Green patients' can engage;

- PCWG could offer spaces to Green patients on our usual accompanied walks/ activities for the public. ... **All** If you have idea and happy to host walk let Mike know
- Louise suggested that we could also offer Green patients to come on dog walks round moss –they might prefer canine interaction to human.
- It was decided that birch pulling might be too solitary and have H&S implications, and that Balsam pulling more appropriate as a Green activity

Best to recruit 'Green patients' via nurse, rather than advertising in newsletter as more direct and manageable.

AOB

Kinross-shire Climate Café has just started up and is informal monthly get together to discuss climate change issues. They have asked us if we could give presentation about moss (**Jeff** has one ready and willing to do), could also give them tour of moss. (They have their own Facebook page and are also present at Kinross farmers market.)

Flower recorder informed Sheena of Rare plant in the moss -Holy grass (Hierochloa Odorata) which has delicate fragrance – it is apparently the county flower of Kinross, and its habitat is wet grassland.

Marje described a teaching resource being developed by the SSERC called Lets Talk Bogs – to help primary school teachers raise the awareness of the importance of peat bogs and their conservation with young children. **Marje** having meeting next week to find out more....

Lesley - location of next meeting – discussed whether postponing next month's meeting by a week might allow us to meet in person if Covid rules relaxed but Decided just to stick with normal schedule.

Peatfree compost – The government has announced it intends to ban the sale of all peat compost in garden centres by 2024 as part of its England Peat Action Plan. (update: the SNP have pledged to cease peat extraction for compost by 2024/25 in their 2021 environmental election manifesto.)

Date of next meeting 15.06.21 but social at Chris' bench hopefully before then - date/time TBC