

Minutes of Woodland Group 15th June 2021 – Orchard – Chris' Place

Attendees: Louise, Dave, Jeff, Mike, Lesley, Charlotte, Sheena, Nic, Tanji, Stuart G (for last part) ...and loads of midges!!

Apologies: Gary, Elaine and Dave, Marje, Graham, Stu

WTS update

- Peatland Action funding - Stuart spoke to SNH, we need to revamp application to Peatland Action (but they are keen to give us the money). **Stuart** to email Gary and cc Roy saying we can help if they can send us copy of previous one to update. We can also monitor contractors when do the work on site as we are in situ.
- New Bridge south of path done – **Stuart** to thank WTS– **Louise** to write piece in newsletter to thank them...outstanding
- Deteriorated Log Cabin been dismantled and converted to patio and bench.
- Dodgy trees round limekiln – still awaiting survey from tree surgeon
- Deer Fence - removed. All agreed was an improvement.

PCWG report

St A students - taking borings to ascertain how Carbon storage in Raised bogs has responded to has changed with change in usage ((before and after trees, sheep grazing etc) and climate... since c1600. Long term project, including other scottish bogs- we'll get report when finished. (Moss grows by 1mm/year so 1m = 1000 yrs)

Dog poo- **Charlotte** to laminate Eilidh's poo poster. **Tanji** to talk to school re doing other posters

Reprofiling/Tree felling NW moss

PR - 2 months in advance. Duration of reprofiling will depend on extent of work carried out. Would need to know details by this Friday to publicise in July Newsletter, else leaflets etc.

Alternative path - Michael showed group map of proposed alternative path - not access friendly, tree roots and steep in places (but should only be for short periods whilst timber moved). Grahamstone gate will need to have someone to manage traffic and divert to alternative route when machinery in operation.

Steps beside Kilmagad wood (up from main road)- these and handrail now completed

Strimming of orchids beside path near bench. Not appropriate for nature conservation organisations such as ours and Woodland Trust!! **Stuart** to ask Gary to remind contractors to avoid. Shouldn't be done so late in year when flowers in bloom and birds nesting (under normal conditions).

Lets talk Bogs teaching resource - **Marje** to update on meeting

Treasurer's report

Actual bank balance at 26 May 2021 £5,751.50
Nil transactions since last meeting.

Gate outstanding - £500 (maybe bit less if can fundraise contribution - see below).

Ali confirmed will supervise accounts again.

Updates

Gate into Moss from Kilmagadwood. Need to keep any fundraising for this keep low key as farmer doesn't want increase in numbers. Leslie suggested Moneypool - an online paypal account for projects.

Supply of materials may be this week so may be installed over w/e.

Dave to chainsaw logs in area in preparation - needs companion for H&S (Louise/Jeff?)

Kilmagad interpretation board - no update on progress. Group discussed best location for board and **Louise** to send WT photo showing site.

Website revamp – Louise has shared early draft with group - **All** to comment... **Michael** to liaise re photo gallery

Green Prescribing

We can offer various group activities e.g. Michael photoshoot, Stu bug walk, Marje tour of orchard, apple day, Him Balsam pulling. - schedule from August onwards.

Batchelors dog walking activity - will liaise directly with nurse as for individuals rather than group.

Climate cafe - **Jeff** will resend link to his zoom talk... We need to liaise re dates for tour of moss.

AOB - from start and end of meeting

Louise saw 2 kids in moss with Bogtastic booklet, they were very enthusiastic and leaflet was reason they were revisiting and coming for walk!

Squirrel siting discussed - some reds seen but also greys. Decline may be due to them relocating due to lack of food (previous survey indicated moss trees only sufficient to host approx. 2.5 squirrels)

Louise - we need **group photo for website**.. She has sent piece to Newsletter
Repaint Grahamstone sign for now.

Charlotte - Reminder to discuss **labelling trees** - next meeting

CWA (Community Woodland Assoc.) subscription renewed

Michael discussed with Jill Aitken (WT - Gary predecessor) re PCWG autonomy vv having to follow WT plan. **Michael** to get her confirmation that thinks we can be autonomous (contrary to what been told by others) - hypothetical at moment as not in position to do this, but good to be clear on our position in case option in future e.g. via a Development Trust

Volunteer Group are keen to help on moss. Could get them to help with birch pulling in Nov, in return for us volunteering with Rhodie bashing at Kinclaven wood, nr Blairgowrie.

Date of next meeting 20.07.21