

Portmoak Community Woodland Group Meeting: 20 July 2021 in the Orchard

Present: Dave & Louise Batchelor, Lesley Botten, Jeff Gunnell, Michael McGinnes, Graham & Marje Smith

Apologies: Charlotte, Stu, Nic, Tanji, Stuart, Sheena

3. WT Update:

Ecological surveyors will be carrying out a vegetation survey of the raised bog for a day week commencing 16th July as part of an overall assessment to assess success of the raised bog peatland recovery across Scotland for NatureScot. Gary has asked for a copy of their findings and will forward them on to the group when they arrive.

4. PCWG Report to the WT: **Stuart to report**/ask the following to Gary, cc Roy:

- last weekend's Himalayan balsam bash event produced only a single barrow load, testament to the good work done last year. NOTE: John Whiteford to get hold of Scottish Water to ask them to pull the HB which is in their compound.
- If WT is still planning to do reprofiling and tree thinning on Portmoak Moss please give us 2 months' notice of the work starting so we can notify the community. Please confirm.
- the slot on the ladder notice board at the Scotlandwell entrance is currently full of rubbish. If WT have more of their leaflets please we can put those here instead.

5. Treasurer's Report

Estimated bank balance at 18 July 2021 (pending arrival of bank statement) £5,721.50. Rejoined the Community Woodlands Association for a year (cost £30).

6. Plan for the Year:

Sunday 29 August birch pulling event at 11.30am.

Louise - provisionally in charge of this, tbc.

Jeff - invite the climate café, put on website

Michael - facebook

Sunday 7 November birch pulling event : consider going for a big event. Already booked Lothian Conservation Volunteers.

We discussed the idea of steering group members spending time at the Moss in the summer with the purpose of explaining our Group's aims, advertising events, promoting our mailing list and so on. No conclusions reached.

7. Green Prescribing

Send dates, times and meeting places to Michael for possible events; he will then pass on to the Green Prescribers.

Stuart - go back to George and say we need at least a month's notice for his next release event to allow time to offer it. The date for this Friday is too short notice.

8. Updates: Orchard Board : no de facto update.

Dog poo posters: **Louise** to print out and put up official WT poster.

Marje - ask Charlotte if she can laminate another poster to replace the smudged one at the Scotlandwell Moss entrance.

New moss gate: **Dave** to give Lesley the invoice. **Michael and Dave** to find a way to make the gate close automatically.

9. Apple Day equipment: **Louise** is to investigate: A. loan of apple crusher from Transition Stirling (b) contact from Charlotte (c) Community Orchard Association (d) Ro and Jo may have a machine.

10. Website revamp: **Louise** to send all amendments to Michael the Web. Yes we want a small section for a financial statement, not full accounts. Yes we need something about cookies and yes to a privacy statement. Not a separate Events page, but put events on main page for visibility.

11. For info: Andrew McBride left NS to become a consultant.

12. AOB

Planning application on the land next to Friar's Place: as a group we cannot respond to the planning application but agreed to look at responding as individuals. **ALL**

John Whiteford reported that Scottish Water had released grey water into the ditch at the Scotlandwell entrance to the Moss. **Sheena** is this something that needs reporting?