

PCWG Meeting 21 10 21 (by Zoom)

1. Present: Louise and Dave Batchelor ,Jeff G, Stuart. Sheena, Charlotte, Graham and Marje, Elaine and Dave Carruthers Guest appearance by (founder member) Karen McDonnel,

2. Apologies: Lesley & Michael, Tanji, Peter, Gary, Nic and Stu

3. Woodland Trust report from Gary

- Seat (for Shep) in Kilmagad has been ordered and due in about 12 weeks, **Gary** chasing WT re plaque – (see also AOB.)
- Signs for Kilmagad ongoing – Gary chasing Kirsty – it should be arriving soon.
- Contractors to erect ramp by steps on east side – we had discussion on the implications of this; we are not keen to encourage horses and cycles (and gradient not suitable for wheelchairs)? We would like to review site risk assessment and implications to path maintenance of his decision. We'll need to have clear idea of what we want when they redo path. Remind Gary of his previous comments when requesting ramp for wheelchairs about implications of ramp. **Marje** and **Stuart** to visit site and look for options
- Updating path after reprofiling - (what was timescale?)
- Gary decreasing to 4 days/week from 22nd (October ?)- We need to ascertain the implications for PCWG and our future management. **Action Stuart/jeff?**
- Kilmagad management plan due to be reviewed early 2022 –WT welcome our views! **All** – need to think of any issues/requests. **Jeff/Stuart** Need to check when the moss management plan due for review?

4. Woodland Trust Update to WtT

Orchard deer fence removal by road. Sheena has instigated getting support letters from local community groups... brownies, cubs etc **Charlotte** to fw comments received from Paula Wood at school

Stuart's letter to Gary complementing WT on success of reprofiling work was passed on to old and new management and was well received and appreciated. Roy handing over to new big boss Alastair Seaman (lives locally in Tillicoutry and keen to visit us).

- a) Thinning and reprofiling– ongoing concern with the big birches on the dome which were spared from the birch removal process, remaining to broadcast their seed over the moss. This will be detrimental to the aim of the fell, which was funded by peatland action to stop birch saplings seeding on the peat bog and dehydrating it.
- b) **Marje and Stuart** to identify Dead trees in orchard – including ash die back - some completely dead. H&S aspect for WT?

5. Treasurers report - Lesley (updated post meeting)

bank balance at 26 Oct 2021 £4,982.90

surplus for 2021 Apple day £76

Costs: Andrew Lear 90.00 (attendance at Apple Day 3 Oct + £30 hire of press)

Also Est Hall hire £10 and scrapper hire £20

Apple Day cash donations on the day 196

Please submit expenses if not done so already - £20 outstanding for Scrapper hire – Charlotte to fw receipt to Lesley

(for comparison surplus in 2019 was £58: Andrew Lear charged £167 + Hall Hire £8.00 = Total £175 costs, Donations on the day £233)

- Was discussion about how to make donations easier – cash becoming increasingly difficult (probably missed out on donations at apple day as folk didn't have change). **Graham** will investigate alternatives

6. Plan for year

- Xmas 12th Dec – we need to do reccie beforehand to identify trees and ensure access paths OK– **Stuart** will notify date.
- Burns event 29th Jan – hall and band booked. We will need to make final decision whether to go ahead at next meeting – but will be unable to proceed unless current restrictions on public dancing change **All** to query previous attenders re likelihood of them coming if legal restrictions permitted.

7. Updates

- Climate café –**Jeff** to share the Youtube video they filmed on the moss. No further updates from them...
- First Aid refresher training for existing first aiders - 30th Oct in Perth
- Website training - Batchelors hosting 2pm Sunday 21st November

- Green Prescribing – all gone quiet. Mike will continue to send them event dates. Will leave it up to them to contact us if need be.

Karen McDonnel and Archive

Karen has done a fantastic job of sorting through the old archive of 27 years of the PCWG; including work done on purchasing the moss and how the community came together to conserve this special . Important to preserve this material – are going to try and scan as much data as possible as useful resource eg for other groups who want to do a similar project. Would this make a good project for an Information Management student, to help us with this work?

Karen, Bob, Louise, Dave and Jeff had a meeting to discuss how to proceed with preserving and making accessible the archived information. They are in the process of writing chapters on various aspects of the moss including Deep History ice age onwards to forestry commission, Climate and ecosystem, Kilmagad wood, Woodland Trust data, community involvement – events and engagement over the years, flora and fauna etc

9. Birch Pulling 7th Nov

Mike co-ordinating event. Lothian Conservation Volunteers will be there, Jill Aitken offered to bring volunteers and advertise on facebook. but after considering H&S Implications of general public attending we agreed to just limit publicity to our members .**Michael** to do risk Assessment and send to Gary. **All** to provide baking if possible

8*. Portmoak School

Marje has been approached by the school re them planting a hedgerow in school grounds and they want to do work on Biodiversity and hedgerows. **Marje and Charlotte** to liaise about suitable hedgerows. The school has got money from John Muir trust to do conservation project with P6 in moss . We agreed to support this and Marje will proceed to liaise with school.

AOB

- Plaque for shep - Louise has checked words for plaque with Nancy, waiting on Gary for WT go-ahead
- Labels on fruit trees – **Sheena and Charlotte** still to progress - **Stuart** to experiment with metal tags..
- Plan to plant new apple trees late winter - discuss next meeting
- Tree needs pruning over Alison Bradleys garden.... **Jeff** will do in next few weeks and advise when so can get help

Stuart and Charlotte and Tanji will update notices on moss to explain more about reprofiling

Karen requested contributions from members for the new archive about why they volunteer for PCWG

Idea to Plant willow circle at Chris' place – discuss next time...

Date of next meeting 16th November 2021

*NB numbering as per agenda, order discussed at meeting may vary slightly