

PCWG Meeting 16 11 21 (Well Inn)

1. Present: Louise and Dave Batchelor, Jeff G, Stuart, Charlotte, Gary, Elaine and Dave Carruthers, Peter, Tanji

2. Apologies: Marje and Graham, Sheena, Nic and Stu

3. Woodland Trust report from Gary

- Seat in Kilmagad still on order
- Signs for Kilmagad have been installed.
- Contractors have constructed ramp by steps on north side (steps have been left in place) – Discussed implications of this wrt increased use by horses and bikes and how path unsuitable if this occurs, parents with buggies have appreciated being able to use the ramp.
- Replacement of path from fork at main entrance round to Grahamstone entrance is scheduled for around August next year. WT may be able to source funding to also do south side; had discussion on path route and materials used; inappropriate to put on raised bog, could have new path round edge of Moss and possibly a board walk so that people can still enjoy the raised bog. Some other peatland groups use recycled plastic which resembles wood, but current WT regulations prohibit use of any plastic.
- Access road to Moss getting rutted again... Scottish Water sorted last time, (first time in 20yrs). WT would consider contributing to funds to improve road. *Need to revisit best approach to resolve matter.*
- Gary decreasing to 4 days/week from 3rd Jan 2022. Going to be management shuffle; Gary going to look after Borders and his colleague Tara is going to take over management of Portmoak and Gary's other sites. We have asked Tara to our xmas meal so we can introduce ourselves.
- Management plan for Kilmagad and Portmoak will now be done at the same time when Tara takes over. This means they will now be in synch and due for revision at the same time.

4. PCWG to WT

Gary grateful for our letter of appreciation of reprofiling work.

Felling of trees in Kilmagad; Bird cherry susceptible to pathogens but nothing can be done. Felled trees will be left in situ.

Dips in the temporary reconstructed (post reprofiling) north path which makes it susceptible to flooding. **Gary** will get subcontractors to fill in dips for now prior to path being redone next year.

Thinning and reprofiling– *ongoing concern with the big birches.*

Louise creating inventory of who has what; tools, safety equipment etc. **All** please send her any details of any PCWG stuff you are storing. Jeff will buy more silky saws and replacement blades and liaise with other groups re possible popper sharing.

First Aid box – first aiders will liaise re any needed updates. Discussion on whether we should have our own defibrillator for events. Peter will investigate what type best and possible sources of funding.

5. Treasurers report - Lesley (updated post meeting)

As per last month's amended mins.

Marje bought hedge guides for her sessions with school kids in Charlotte's garden.

there may be an additional cost incurred with necessary changes to Kilmagad booklet – see below.

6. Plan for year – Xmas Tree Day 12 Dec

- Prep from 10.15? 11-2pm – event will be managed by Lesley. Previous Risk assessment will need updated re covid Re donations – look into paypal payment. Peter will help Lesley. Will request cash donations in PR for event. Fiz will do car park. Elaine and Charlotte will man refreshment stall.
- Prep for event; 11th 11am for setup – as many as possible to help. Tree inventory and check access/ H+S on 5th Dec 10am **Peter Stuart , Tanji and Mike.**
- Burns event 29th Jan – cancelled . Hall not hosting large gatherings. Dave will cancel band. Hope to host ceilidh or similar later in year.

7. Updates

- Batchelors hosting 2pm Sunday 21st November

- Jim Shepherd (Shep's) plaque £80 +VAT – **Louise** to resend wording to Gary. Gary will ensure it is put on the bench on moss, despite WT complications, as this is what Shep would have preferred and better access for his friends and family.
- Have had an inquiry re installing remembrance benches. Brand new seats go via WT dedications team but portmoak/kilmagad not on list – **Gary** to send Louise contact.
- The deer fence at bottom of Kilmagad orchard will be left in place till it deteriorates and the WT will then replace it by stock fence as per their standard procedure.
- Sheena and Charlotte are having meeting to discuss labelling fruit trees

8. Orchard Booklet

Kilmagad booklet will need to be revised with 5 changes to be consistent with the new signs.

Need to plan a launch event - Aim to do in spring co-inciding with blossom.

9. AOB

- Info from archive material shows that we used to have lots more social events, eg teddy bears picnics, sponsored run round path, easter egg hunt. Can we reinstate some of these?
- Query re the oldest trees in Kilmagad – Gary confirmed some oaks probably 200-250 yrs old!
- Perthshire advertiser failed to publish birch pull event but will do next week
- New Web content management Training this Sunday 21st– 2pm @ Batchelors
- Lesley found historic info re Kilmagad; it was planted after ww1 and probably felled for resources for ww 2
- Mike – update on amount birch saplings cleared; 19,000 sq m out of 82,000 sq m (about ¼). With current numbers weeding (including outside volunteers, will take about 4 yrs to clear by which time other areas will have reseeded. Larger numbers of volunteers would have H&S implications! Discuss at next meeting. Gary said WT would repeat cut and spray of larger seedlings on west side.

- Nature Scot volunteers coming to birch pull on 15th Dec – need to borrow our saws (see above re new replacements). They will do own H&S. Bog squad coming again in spring with own tools etc
- Blackboard info signs on edge of moss – **Stuart and Charlotte and Tanji** will update with profiling info
- Feedback from cubs, brownies ,school when requested for support for retaining fence at Chris' place reinforced how valuable the space is for community groups (Chris would be very pleased!!)
- 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** meeting to discuss - **Stuart** to experiment with metal tags..
- Suggestion to plant new apple trees late winter - discuss at next meeting
- Karen McDonnell has 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

14th December 2021 zoom meeting and

Xmas meal on 21st ; 7pm with dinner served at 7.30pm. Charlotte will co-ordinate bookings.

Minutes by Charlotte