

PCWG Meeting 18 1 22 (by Zoom)

1. Present: Marje and Graham, Lesley and Mike, Louise and Dave B, Jeff G, Stuart, Charlotte, Sheena with Tara & Gary from WT

2. Apologies: Elaine and Dave C, Tanji, Peter

3. Previous Minutes approval

Acceptance of December minutes proposed by Louise and seconded by Jeff

Outstanding from Dec Meeting:

- Inventory still ongoing – awaiting some input
- Archive – Jeff still got 2 boxes of history - had discussion about how we could maybe get external help to make archive material available on-line

4. Woodland Trust report

plaque and bench awaiting delivery from manufacturers. (*did we get idea of when?*)

Jubilee planting underway in various groups/communities - WT would support us if our group decided that was something we want to do and if so we need to agree where –top of Kilmagad wood suggested as good spot. **Tara** to check if we can use WT tree packs on a WT site – she would support us planting more fruit trees in orchard.

Window for planning bare root trees early spring and Tree nurseries' often have supply delay post covid.

5. PCWG Report to WT

Waterlogged path: Gary though photos of flooding on path not too bad . They are planning to do it in one go when properly resurface that whole section, as patching costly and temporary.

Ditch where dragonfly folk go – water level high but some areas clear whilst others covered in sphagnum – would this imply some moss has been cleared?

Birch on main dome, above newly reprofiled area- WT have money in the program to address this.

6. Treasurers report - Lesley (updated post meeting)

The Treasurer circulated to the Steering Group details of payments made and income received since the last meeting.

Donations received at December's Christmas Tree event were the highest we've ever had which is perhaps not surprising as over 160 people attended. Michael McGinnes has donated the profits from the sale of his Portmoak 2022 calendar.

7. Plan for year

New Management Plan - Tara was receptive to the idea of PCWG putting forward suggestions of what our priorities are, with the caveat that obviously WT have to consider other aspects and not all of our wishlist may get all done. **Stuart, Sheena, Michael, Louise & Jeff** to get together and identify and prioritise items on our wishlist.

Gary and Roy Barlow will be involved in constructing the plan. Timing for publication of the Plan has been delayed due to central IT problems preventing access to relevant reporting software.

Jubilee tree planting

What: Andrew Lear only does potted fruit trees now (about £21 /apple tree) which means planting time not constrained to winter/early spring.

.... Scottish Heritage Bare root trees are £25/each

John Hancocks (community orchard) ???

We would need to check with WT as to suitability as have regulations about which species are acceptable)

When: Plant barefoot stock by early spring then can celebrate later eg in June with extra Jubilee bank holiday),

How: WT now have policy to remove all virgin plastic on site so tree guards no longer used – alternative is to plant saplings through hawthorn or surround in brash etc (**Tara /Louise** to liaise re this).

Living structure in Chris' place? Need to consider maintenance - water supply? Kate at Flanders moss knows about it –Jeff to liaise with her and feed back at next meeting. Alternative (wetter) site on road into moss by gate and have wild flowers (golden saxifrage etc).

Agreed Sunday 6th Feb for orchard pruning day and can do reekie for new fruit tree sites then. Discussed the extent to which we have edible hedges (eg brambles, blackthorn etc) and if we should plant more.??

Birch pulling - 12 from NatureScot coming on 19th Jan so can hopefully do approx. 4,000 sqm on East side of main ditch (delinated by the yellow flags). But we still need a huge number of manhours to tackle the extensive growth and to try and get back to a baseline from which we just have to regularly keep on top of the new small saplings which appear.

Ideal time for a mass birch pulling would be in the summer (june/july) - whilst being aware of risk to nesting birds but mitigated by fact we are dealing with small trees and careful observation whilst working. **Tara asked us to send her cumulative manpower hrs worked on birch pulling – may be able to useful for new mgt plan? Mike??**. **Tara** to check re maintaining reprofiled slopes eg water loving non-invasive trees which help bog structure would be ideal where need to replace felled trees.

WTS Scotland Director, Alastair Seaman, would like to visit the moss (**Tara/Stuart** will liaise re mutually suitable date).

Other possible events for 2022

Portmoak birdwatch/dawn chorus

Moss identification - (Stuart met bryologist from Edinburgh Botanics who could maybe come and do survey)

Moss Identification

Kilmagad Booklet launch – maybe at Portmoak Festival if held this year

8. Updates

Orchard Booklet, Marje having another meeting with Mary so should be finalised before next meeting.

Defibrillator - ongoing....

9. Website

Blog – all thought it a good idea, but will need collaboration of blogging and technical skills as none of us have experience of setting one up.

Lesley will oversee structure to help maintain blog continuity.

10. AOB

Drum Community Woodland group would like to borrow our tree poppers on 29th Jan. Agreed that was fine.

A delegation from a potato co. looking to restore peat bogs on west approached us re a fact finding meeting.

There was a query/suggestion to maybe have one of our meetings in daytime eg at Chris' place or Lochend Farm? **Stuart** to consider/ investigate with attendees.

Bogsquad back in action and would like to be given another date.

Mike to email them.

Tripping hazard on SW point of main path just before go down steps to reprofiled bit. To be discussed next time (Charlotte will provide photo to help discussion).

Date of next meeting 15th February 2022

Minutes by Charlotte