



Minutes

MEETING 21.02.23 19:30 Well Country Inn

1. Present Dave, Louise, Jeff, Stuart, Mike, Lesley, Elaine, Sheena,

2. Apologies Tanji, Stu, Nic, Dave C, Marje, Graham, Charlotte

3. Minutes. Approval & matters arising

1 Proposed dates for the Woodland Trust apple event now 23rd, 25th and 26th September. Our apple day is the 1st oct.

2 Item 4 point 3. Non herbicide monitoring. What's the protocol?

Experiments on systems in nature are notoriously difficult. As we all know, the normal variations in the subject as well as the variability of environmental influences means that carefully planned experiments are required to separate out the effects and reach valid conclusions. As you know we have been clearing Birch and brash from the top of the Moss for years. After our first 'experiment' in one corner of the Moss lead by Roy over 15 years ago. We have cleared much of the crown of the Moss while improving our technique and organization but more importantly collecting data over all those years. We're glad that the WT has the expertise for this and we would very much like to see your experimental protocol: could you send it to us please?

4. **WT update.** (Tara) nothing

5. PCWG report.

1 Collapsed fence Kilmagadwood. **Stuart** to ask Tara to take fence and gate away.

2 WT online refresher training course (Leaders). If you haven't, get on with it. Deadline. End of March.

6. Treasurer's report. The treasurer has been in place for 10 years. Hooray. No transactions

7. Plan for the year. **Stuart** suggested we discuss his detailed plan for the year. See attached.

1 Easter egg day. **Stuart** to speak to **Tanji** what progress. And to **Nic**.

2 Portmoak Festival. Jazz gig in Chris's place. **Dave**. Exhibition of **Mike's** photies in the hall.

3 Bog Squad to come on April 2. Check for bird nesting. **Mike** in charge as usual

4 The Woodland Trust's apple days. Email from WT. 'Give us help'. Marje responded and was spurned. **Louise** to make a rota of which of us is available on which days. **Mike** to respond to Kirsty

8. **Updates.** Interpretation. Email (7 pages) from Eilidh the interpretation person. All looks good. Except the claim that the moss is a dragonfly hotspot. We are sceptical.

9. **NuCo (New Company).** Email sent to WT on 3-Feb-23 (~3 weeks ago) asking for a meeting to discuss long term vision, management plan and working arrangements for our group. These 3 topics are all inter-related and it makes sense to cover all of them at one meeting. No response or acknowledgement from the 4 recipients. Not unexpected: we've asked several times for a meeting to discuss the vision and management plan and the WT have never replied to any request. In October our NuCo working group specifically asked the WT what they wanted to get out of a new arrangement and again, no response. For NuCo, we've done our work so we'll just keep it on file in case the idea ever crops up again. (Update, as of 16 April, = 6 weeks, still no response from WT).

10. Social media from **Mike**

Facebook records details of who is following us. At present 24% are male and 76% female.

We have 540 followers who live as follows..

238 Kinross(includes Portmoak), 27 Dunfermline, 22 Glenrothes, 20 Lochgelly and 20 Perth. Smaller numbers in Edinburgh,Cupar Kirkcaldy, Kelty and Stirling.

The highest numbers are aged between 25 and 34 at 24%. Falling off on age groups above this. We have virtually no following under 18 and very few under 25. This reflects the Facebook generation.

10.5 **Mike** will create a document which lays out what we are for. He'll pull in advice and expertise and consult with the group as he puts it together.

11. Convention on Wetlands. **Mike** to investigate and create a para which helps us in our dealings with the WT

12. Website. We keep the Task Risk Assessments n on the websites.
Louise has a new way to upload pictures to the website. Whoopee.

13. **AOB**. Push bird boxes, **Dave** to carry forward

St Andrews Warlaw museum - peatland exhibition expeditions. **Charlotte** to fix

Dams. **Sheena** wants to do something about them before the raised bog collapses. How do we take this forward. **Stuart** to talk to George and will lead the dam building project.

Date of next meeting 21.03.23

Portmoak Plan for the year 2023				
January	18 th	Birch pulling (Moss)	NatureScot Kinross (Moss)	Agreed prov to com
February				
March	tba	Birch pulling (Moss)	SEPA	
April	8 th	Easter Egg Hunt (Orch)	PCW	
May	7 th	Dawn Chorus (Moss)	PCW	
	tba	Birch pulling (Moss)	Lothian Conservation Volunteers	

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November	tbc	Birch pulling (Moss)	Lothian Conservation Volunteers	
			Bog Squad. PCW	
December	10 th	Christmas tree event (M)	PCW	
2024				
January	18 th	Birch pulling (Moss)	NatureScot Kinross (Moss)	