



MINUTES

16.01.2024 19:30 Well Country Inn

1. Present: Louise, Dave B, Stuart, Michael, Lesley, Charlotte, Jeff, Dave C., Elaine

2. Apologies: Sheena, Izzy, Marje, Graham, Stu, Nic, Calum

3. Previous meeting Minutes. Approval Charlotte proposed, Michael seconded.

4.PCWG update: update on International Union for the Conservation of Nature report (Jeff & Louise): IUCN made minor adjustments and it will be published in their next Peatland special report. They will notify us on publication end of February. **ACTION:** Jeff to notify group; Dec 30th Birch pull/snowy bog walk on S side of peat dome roughly parallel to main path. Limited regeneration of birch and particularly conifers which are very easy to pull at present; Jan 6th wassailing in the orchard-gorgeous weather, song and drink. Success. Plan to repeat event on 12th night, and make it a public event; Plastic tubes by golf course to be collected by James Drysdale-meet Dave B at sheep fold 10:30am Friday 19th **ACTION:** Dave tell Izzy and request collection by WT contractor ASAP; Dave B & Louise to join WT volunteer dates at Glenshiel for tree planting; Stu & Sheena took water levels in bog beg. Jan. Charlotte expressed interest in helping to take readings.

5.WT update: Update from Izzy regarding NS visit and WT planned restoration work; Dams 118 & 119: Due to poor weather Izzy unable to attend meeting. Email update as follows:

- thanks to Louise for the summary re. Peatland Action visit she sent last month. I'd be keen to discuss more at next month's meeting. In the meantime, based on your feedback I'm going to go ahead and fill out the application form to start the process for the feasibility study. Re. some of her specific questions:
 - Kirkconnell Flow (Dumfries) and Bolton Fell Moss (Cumbria) are two sites they've recently used cell and contour bunding techniques
 - The area of the site suitable for PA funding depends on peat depths, I got the impression they'll only consider extending the area if it has a positive impact on deep peat areas but they wouldn't commit to anything until the feasibility study is complete
 - Good idea to ask opinion of dragonfly, bird experts etc. for their take once we have feasibility study in place
 - If dams 118/119 are still a concern then I'm happy to get costs for reinforcing them with timber as short-term measure. Our contractor has been off work most of this month after an operation, but I'll check in to see when he might be able to give me a price
- Kilmagad management plan review is almost ready for public consultation. I'll email the group with the draft plan and would appreciate comments from the group as a whole (or from individuals if you have personal comments to add). It would also be great if know there are any other key interest groups you think would like to read/comment. I'll also be putting out some laminated posters on site to encourage other users of the wood to have a say.
- Based on your feedback about the popularity of the outer loop path, I'll look to get the windblown trees removed from the path soon. As above, I'll ask our contractor to do this before the spring once he's back at work.

- For Dave – is he up for having a quick Teams/Zoom catch up with me and Alexa to sort a plan for the bird box day and how we can support?

6. Treasurer's report: £360 in, £52 (includes £40 to Fife Countryside Trust for Apple Day Scratte) out. Thanks to MM for calendar benefit

7. Email admin update (Jeff). Our current mailer is MailChimp (free); doesn't have the capability to maintain separate email lists. ACTION: Tanji to ask Simon if he would set up a mail chimp list with the new interested volunteers (on spreadsheet). Jeff, Louise, Tanji, Charlotte to meet to review PCWG email addresses.

8. PFTY: Nest boxes: Date changed to Mon Feb 12th for Portmoak Primary School (PPS) pupils. Dave liaising with Izzy on details for fixing boxes to trees in Kilmagadwood ACTION: Dave to complete TRA for Izzy (cc Tanji). We will provide lunch (soup & sandwich, pudding) for 8 Men's Shed plus PCWG volunteers, we will need donations from our group for catering; Easter Weekend Egg Rolling: yes we would like to plan—provisionally Easter Sunday (March 31st), pruning fruit (apple & pear) trees-March 2rd from 1pm onwards; Bankhead Moss visit: 23rd Feb or 1st March per Stuart, no date yet but he will find out; bird walk during Portmoak festival: per Stuart, Scott is up for it but we need to book ASAP. ACTION: Charlotte to find out Portmoak Festival dates and let Stuart know so he can secure a date (likely a Saturday)

9. AOB : Fate of CoS Portmoak Church: public meeting Tues January 23rd 7:30pm;

Date of next meeting: February 20th