



## MINUTES

September 17, 2024 19:30 The Well, Scotlandwell

**1.Present:** Attendees: Elaine, Susan F, Louise, Jeff, Stuart, Tanji, Charlotte, Dave B., Dave, Linda, Sheena

**2.Apologies:** : Michael, Lesley, Dave C, Marje & Graham

**3.Previous meeting Minutes.**

**4.Treasurer's report.**

**5.WT update:**

- I have contacted one of my contractors from another site about doing a trial of birch cutting/stump treatment at the Moss. They are happy to help and have done a lot of similar work on other raised bogs and both them and my NatureScot contact have said that autumn/winter is best for treatment. I've attached a map showing the two areas I think we're best to trial the approach on, does this link with what you guys think is a priority? From memory the growth is worst in area 1 so I'll ask them to prioritise this, moving onto area 2 if they have time. I'm going to do a day rate with them so we can work out costs per area and so there's an emphasis on quality of works
  - \* It looks like finding a date for Kirkconnell Flow will be difficult? I've passed this onto my contact at NS and she's going to go ahead and arrange a day with the other group she'd mentioned and let me know when this is, in case any of you would like to join
  - \* Can you let me know once you've managed to check your first aid kit contents are in date please? Happy for you to re-fill as necessary and claim back on expenses via Assemble. Charlotte & Louise to liaise with Matilda to re-order, claim expenses etc.
- - \* I saw Matilda last week and she mentioned that Paul Taylor has arranged to do some in-person Assemble training with some of you? This is great to hear, let me know how I can help if you want to arrange a public work party later in the year to encourage new volunteer recruits?
  - \* Hopefully you have had some luck with the volunteers for the Apple Day who Matilda contacted?

**6.PCWG update: nothing to report this month.**

**7.Apple Day (Sunday September 29<sup>th</sup>):**

From Marje:

### APPLE DAY

1. I will make tons of crumbles for the apple day and I am available on the Saturday for setting up and discussions, and the Sunday. I will buy cream and I have some spoons.

Happy to buy other things which you may be short of. Not sure if we're planning to do the apple structures. If so, we need cocktail sticks and paper plates.

2. If you think we need more apples please let me know and I will get a ton or two from Joanna

3. I don't know yet if some of the children from Portmoak will make a poster relating to their orchard project and come to the event. I will let you know if they get in touch with me.

4. Everything is moving forward re getting the biodiversity booklet available at LLL and hopefully Vane Farm.

I guess we might like to have copies at the apple day.

- Sheena to organise paper plates, sweets and cocktail sticks. Marje to do children's activities. Charlotte & Elaine on catering.

## **8. Biodiversity & Soundscape Projects: Jessica & Natasha**

- Jessica Westworth, student at St Andrews University, presented a summary of her research findings. Biodiversity Baselines: A case-study of Portmoak Moss on land management effects on invertebrate and vegetation assemblages. Very interesting findings. Marje interested in having Jessica come and do some work with primary school. Jessica open to that. Jeff would like to extract some data for 're-presenting', e.g. management summary
- Natasha, student at St. Andrews University, presented a summary of the soundscape she created on the Moss. Used some Anthroponic (human) sound, Biophonic sound (animal) and geophonic sound (microphones under the peat captured the rain falling). Created a story of the moss, tried to present the biodiversity of the Moss with the soundscape.

**9.**Plan for Kirkconnell flow visit: waiting to hear back from Izzy once the other group decides on a date.

**10. Bird Boxes in Kilmagad:** repair and repositioning of bird boxes October 23rd 2024. Lesley will be WT leader and will do the necessary paperwork. Start time tbc. Will be in the morning.

## **11.AOB:**

- Sheena: SEPA keen to have another work day on the Moss.
- Stu & Sheena Dipwells: Wooden posts are starting to rot.
- Sheena keen to test ringing trees with Izzy

**Date of next meeting: October 15th, 2024**