

## Portmoak Community Woodland Group

### **Annual General Meeting**

16 April 2019

#### **Attendees**

|                   |                  |                  |                |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Elaine Carruthers | Leslie Botten    | Charlotte Vlasto | Mike McGinness |
| Stuart Garvie     | Dave Carruthers  | Jeff Gunnell     | Graham Smith   |
| Marje Smith       | Louise Batchelor | Sheena Buchanan  | John Whiteford |
| Gary Bolton       |                  |                  |                |

#### **Apologies**

|             |              |                |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| Nic Cassidy | Stuart Byers | Dave Batchelor |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|

#### **Date**

16 April 2019

#### **Location**

Well Inn, Scotlandwell

#### **1. Election of office bearers**

Current Chair: Jeff Gunnell  
Current Secretary: Louise Batchelor  
Current Treasurer: Lesley Botten

All prepared to serve again. Nominations, proposers and seconds for each position as follows:

| <b><u>Position</u></b>  | <b><u>Nominated</u></b>   | <b><u>Proposed</u></b> | <b><u>Seconded</u></b> |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b><u>Chair</u></b>     | Jeff Gunnell<br>No other nominations<br><b>Jeff Gunnell elected</b>         | Louise Batchelor       | Marje Smith            |
| <b><u>Secretary</u></b> | Louise Batchelor<br>No other nominations<br><b>Louise Batchelor elected</b> | Stuart Garvie          | Elaine Carruthers      |
| <b><u>Treasurer</u></b> | Lesley Botten<br>No other nominations<br><b>Lesley Botten elected</b>       | Dave Carruthers        | Charlotte Vlasto       |

This will be the fifth year for this group as the office bearers. We'd like there to be some change from time to time to keep things fresh and not to over burden the incumbents.

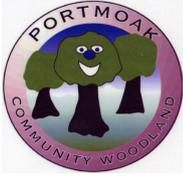
#### **2. Accounts**

Submitted by the treasurer, Lesley Botten.

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Opening balance     | £6931.33 |
| Closing balance     | £6930.00 |
| Surplus for 2017/18 | £ -1.33  |

Full accounts attached.

Overall we are pleased with the state of our finances. We have enough in the bank that we can continue to make our events free of charge, (donations accepted). We can organise the Burns event without worrying that we could end up in debt. We can respond rapidly if an important opportunity crops up, like buying more land or matching funding for a project. We can take the lead on things that the WT might not be able to fund.



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#### **3. Review of the year**

- Many events were put on - for a full list see the website. Included in the list were Scotland's National Bog Day in July, Apple Day in September, Christmas Tree Day in December and the Burns Ceilidh in February.
- We have put much time into popping and pulling to control birch regen and large areas are now looking good. This effort will continue.
- The water table continues to rise. After a long dry period when it fell to a level as low as when we started, as soon as we got rain, the level rapidly increased to be nearly at the surface again.
- Chris's project has created a flat play and activity area at the orchard. Benches and a table will be put in place soon.
- Groups continue to monitor and count insects (moths, butterflies, damsel flies, dragon flies, bees) and birds.
- Six members of the team were training as first aiders to support our events.
- Marje Smith's educational work on 'Let's Talk Bogs' continues and many teachers have been training. Visits by classes are scheduled.
- We were visited by our local MP, Luke Graham and by Roseanna Cunningham, MSP and Cabinet Secretary for Environment, to learn more about the importance of peatlands..
- The Woodland Trust Volunteer Management Team visited us as part of their annual get together.

Overall a good mix of work activities, community events, education, publicity and awareness raising.

#### **4. Changes to the constitution**

- None proposed