

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF PORTMOAK COMMUNITY WOODLANDS GROUP

7.30PM 17TH JANUARY 2017 WELL COUNTRY INN

1. Present: Jeff Gunnell (chair), Dave Carruthers, Elaine Carruthers, Stuart Byers, Nic Cassidy, Chris Vlasto, Stuart Garvie, Sheena Jamieson, Lesley Botten, Louise Batchelor, Dave Batchelor
2. Apologies: Alison Bradley, Michael McGinness, Charlotte and Chloe Vlasto
3. Matters arising: Jeff will write up the lag fen project for the CWA newsletter.
4. Woodland Trust Update: nothing received from Gary at WTS. **Actions:** Jeff to ask Gary when the draft management plan is due and Louise to ask him for a description of the new planting on the hill, for the newsletter.
5. PCWG report for WT (unsafe bridges etc): no update since last month
6. PCW update (Bog snorkelling etc): Stuart G and Sheena had measured the dipwells and sent the latest quarterly information to SNH. **Action:** Sheena will take up with SNH the question of why their latest peatland map shows Portmoak Moss as having no peatland habitat, when it does! SNH made their own infrared measurements of sphagnum last year. Sheena also drew attention to the large quantity of regenerating conifers on the peat dome. We agreed to try to pull them out and to try to make this a volunteer day. SNH/RSPB a possible source of volunteers? **Action:** Chris will mention it to SNH **Action:** Jeff will investigate buying 'poppers', the latest tree-pulling gadget (whatever else you were thinking!). We're looking at March/April for a date. In the meantime, whenever you're passing feel free to pull out a wee conifer.
7. Treasurer's report: On 17.1.17 Lesley paid in £1, 115.00 = 43 Burns tickets as well as some additional Christmas tree money. @£950 was made from Xmas trees.
8. Burns Supper (21.1.17): Stuart G reported 108 ticket sales **Action:** Batchelors to tell Helen for catering nos. Beer being delivered by Stuart Kale at 6pm on Friday. Victoria Baird and her friend Fay to help Ian Buchanan and Chris with the bar (new price of £11 for a bottle of wine, £3 for a pint of beer). Lesley and Nic to meet and greet guests and sell raffle tickets, with Stuart G in charge of the larger parties. Raffle prizes to be prominently displayed. Dave B looking for additional pics for his Mosses, Waters toast. Hall to be laid out at 13.30 on Saturday afternoon.
9. AOB: The Heritage people have funding and want to go ahead with the lantern event in the Moss this autumn. Meeting ended 9.15pm