

Portmoak Community Woodland Steering Group

Meeting: 16th February 2006, Lomond Country Inn

Present: J.Shepherd, E.Carruthers, S.Garvie, M.McGinnes, L.McGinness, L.Batchelor, D.Batchelor, M.Brown, B.Drysdale, M.Hogg, R.Barlow, A.Bradley

Apologies: R.McDonnell, J.Gunnell, L.&D Batchelor

Minutes of previous meeting agreed as a true reflection

Woodland Trust Update

Leaflet: Need to distribute to shop, pubs, Lochleven Larder etc. M.Hogg is to make a leaflet dispenser for entrance to the Moss. Discussed ideas, KMcD to bring Osprey leaflet to march meeting for some ideas, perhaps could use oak from Moss entrance?

Viewpoint Indicator: D.Munro just returned from Antarctica, KMcD to meet am on 18th Feb, notes for March meeting.

Weather data: No update from JShepherd, R.Barlow has pursued various avenues to speak to a contact at the Met Office.

Treasurer's Report: £1799.91 in account, RMcD attendance at Woodfuel Seminar in October requires to be settled £43.

Tetley-Trail: no update, no paths group 7th Feb cancelled, may meet on a more 'informal' basis from now on. Hold up of 2nd phase as a consequence of incomplete land acquisition, process has slowed but has until 2008 to complete.

Portmoak Moss Management Plan: M.Brown aka the spellchecker has reviewed.

Comments:

Report extensive, taking account of history, change of ownership, management to date and future management plans. Comprehensive, coherent/intelligible. Document will provide essential information to the community woodland group

Page 2: In introduction what is meant by confidential information not included?

Page 3: States 'Primarily for walkers', Inference that access allowed for all cycles, horses, motorcycles and quad bikes.

Page 4: Location should be Kinross-shire and Portmoak Parish

Page 7: Group ownership of sawmill. Brief mention of 'cycles and horses could damage paths'. Pleased to see stated access to 'deeper' areas will be monitored and considered as appropriate. This is important as could damage existing flora and fauna if public access is 100% within deeper areas.

Curling Pavilion: J.Shepherd advised that Jane Turnbull in touch regards this matter, the situation is likely to resolve itself during 2006. Keen to identify what our proposals are, speaking to their membership to gauge opinion, will feedback in due course.

Biodiversity Training Day: Date, programme and speakers agreed, KMcD coordinating, producing a costing for event, CWA have allocated £1500 to fund activity. Costing to be provided to Feb meeting.

Website: CWA website cannot provide the support required, J.Gunnell pursuing KMcD

Calendar: Sold in the region of 100 calendars, Exxon have provided £500 funding which has assisted greatly in meeting the costs of the activity. The images from the calendar will be used at the forthcoming Burns Supper. KMcD is to write to Exxon and thank them for their support.

Burns Supper: Sell out, all arrangements in order. M.Hogg has incurred expenses of £23.79 in relation to production of chair. J.Shepherd is to arrange printing of programme.

Tree Tubes and Stakes: KMcD to retrieve from Kilmagadwood.

10th Anniversary: Take forward following Biodiversity Training Day.

Timber (Community Use) Removal from Site: R.Barlow to confirm arrangements made are suitable.

RSPB Bird Survey: S.Garvie has received copy.

AoCB

Depth of Water in Ditches: L.Batchelor raised concerns given that now at full depth, suggested digging parallel ditches to hold water. Comment required from H.Rolton?

Kilmagadwood: At the second stile a hole has been made to permit access by dogs, would be more appropriate to have a dog gate? Discussed the possibility of approaching landowner to erect a fence to separate people from livestock, which would allow the stiles to be removed thereby easing access onto the hill. R.Drysdale is to speak with landowner. M.Hogg volunteered to make dog gate is required.

Also needing to remove tree guards from well-established trees on Kilmagadwood.

Alan Titchmarsh: Opportunity to have Moss showcased on a 'Biodiversity' programme, KMcD to make contact.

Shotton Wood: S.Garvie suggested we consider producing an array of short information leaflets featuring areas of particular interest in our woodlands. Discuss further at Feb meeting.

Signage for Woodland: Currently any items of interest are drawn to attention of public by posting notices on entrance gate, suggested creating a rustic notice board, perhaps from oak which would be more in keeping with the woodland environment. M.Hogg can produce but would require guidance on style/group expectations.

Date and time of next meeting: Thursday 16th Feb.2006, Lomond Country Inn at 1930hrs