

MINUTES OF MEETING OF PORTMOAK COMMUNITY WOODLAND GROUP STEERING COMMITTEE held on 17th June 2014

PRESENT: Karen McDonnell (Chair), Dave Batchelor, Louise Batchelor, Lesley Botten, Alison Bradley, Dave Carruthers, Stuart Garvie, Jeff Gunnell, Jim Shepherd

APOLOGIES: Gary Bolton, Mike McGinnes

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Words "Leaflets to be put in box" to be deleted – incorrect.

1. WOODLAND TRUST UPDATE: Louise read the report emailed by Gary in which he noted (a) Kilmagad: two perch seats have been installed in accordance with practice at numerous sites throughout Scotland. (b) Portmoak Moss: (i) Access works: necessary tree surgery work along the paths will be carried out towards the end of June and several of the live Scots Pine trees which had been ring barked in the past but somehow continued to grow, and are scattered across the raised bog will be felled with timber being left on site to provide a fallen deadwood habitat: this is part of the overall mulching works and is to prevent live seed falling on to the recently mulched core area of raised bog. The rest of the live Scots Pine on the raised bog core area will be felled in August as part of the mulching contract: the trees have been marked. Concern was expressed by the meeting as to the effect this would have on the small red squirrel population of the Moss but Gary reported that the edges of the site were being monitored for red squirrel activity prior to the commencement of operations. He requested that any observations be reported to him. (ii) Improvements: Gary reported that Contractors will shortly be quoting to carry out improvements to the path/steps and also several bridges. Work will be undertaken to enhance the habitat of the Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary and ancillary activities. (iii) Mulching work on core area of raised bog: all necessary administrative work has been put in place and work should start on August 1st. He suggested in areas where water levels are reasonable and sphagnum moss/cotton grass has a good foothold be marked off as "no go areas" and not be mulched but the meeting felt it would result in the dome remaining ridged and the intended flattening of the surface would not be achieved: **Stuart will discuss this with Gary.** Gary has indicated further "vole collars" are required. **Louise and Dave have a supply.**

2. ACTIONS: Louise emailed Andrew McBride on 21st May and re-sent the message today – an automatic message advised that he is away. Louise has also emailed the "Kinross Newsletter", Community Council and residents about the works to be carried out. She has not yet contacted the "Courier" and the "Perthshire Advertiser" but this is in hand. She is also dealing with the floral arrangement.

3. PATHS GROUP: Nothing in update from Paths Group affects PCWG.

4. PLAYGROUP: Nothing further.

5. LLLP: Lesley presented the latest Moss Update: the application has been sent but the outcome of the application to SNH is not due until the first week of July, at which time she and Mike will be away. This is the application for matched funding. Quotes will require to be obtained from consultants on the basis that the funding will be available. Lesley will send out the tender document to a number of consultants, but their emailed responses will be required by 11th July to avoid a potential loss of £10k of funding, and it is hoped to reduce them to a short list of three, then if the preferred consultant is selected by end August this will count in LLLP's financial year. As Lesley and Mike do not return until 20th July, **Karen, Stewart and Jeff will deal with the responses in hope of achieving a decision by the 18th. Preferred consultants will need to visit the site all on one day/evening in the window 4th - 8th August allowing two hours per person.** Once we have interviewed consultants LLLP have to do their bit and all before end August. **Lesley will advise specific date, and if any consultants wish to revise their bid it must be done in that week.**

6. TREASURER'S REPORT: Expenditure: cheques written since last meeting - £75 to Dave Carruthers for strimming at Kilmagad, £235 to Matt Hogg for new permanent sign. Outstanding payments: £30 for Portmoak Festival exhibition sponsorship, Membership fee of the Community Woodlands Association £30. Income - £40 donated in respect of items from us.

7. HYDROLOGY: Stuart is doing further measurements.

8. PORTMOAK FESTIVAL: Butterfly Event and Damsel Fly Event: The Moth and Butterfly Walk starts from the marquee and is expected to be very well attended but the Damsel and Dragonfly Walk will probably have a small attendance. A PA system is required for the former occasion. **Louise to check whether speaker will supply his own equipment as he did last time. The sign requires to be replaced.**

9. Next meeting 15th July.

Meeting ended 9.02 pm.