

Minutes of Woodland Group 21st of April – Zoom meeting

Woodland Group attendees: Louise, Jeff, Mike, Lesley, Marjorie, Graham, Sheena, Charlotte, Stu, Nic and Callum.

Apologies: All others

WT update

- Due to the Coronavirus we had to pull back from the birch scrub just at the very point when the work was to be done - which was frustrating for me and the contractor as we were all lined up to go.

The instruction from the WT was that only essential works is permitted e.g. H&S work, this applies across the WT Estate throughout the UK.

Included as essential works is; any path maintenance works necessary from a safety point of view & tree surgery/safety work - both of which I have been continuing to carry out on with on my sites across South Scotland - though I am having to draft in others at times as some contract companies have decided early on to furlough staff. Obviously we are in extraordinary times and I am following the WT management team and government guidance.

Hopefully, the current restrictions on operational activities may ease in due course and we can continue with some of our work programme for the year.

That said we will not be carrying out any path mowing/cutting for the time being - which in the case of the orchids, insects and other plants and animals at Portmoak and Kilmagad and across our Estate will give the wildlife some temporary respite.

If the current situation stays as it is - or starts to improve! I will be able to respond to some sites by carrying out mowing/cutting back where very heavy growth is occurring and causing a potential issue for access & visitor safety e.g. I'm thinking of the paths within the deer fence at Kilmagad and on other sites but this is not likely to be until sometime in mid-May at the earliest.

I enjoyed hearing about the wildlife spotting discoveries on the Moss & at Kilmagad and Lesley's news about spotting the red in Kilmagad is fantastic news.

Please send my regards to the group.

Treasurers report

Bank balance: £5,957.49 minus the £20 cheque sent to Mary Dewar for Facebook banner design

Portmoak Bog Booklet

- New banner now on Facebook with link to the website. According to Mary it would be good to set up a post that explains what the booklet is, how to use and how to get it. Provides insight/advert as to what is in the booklet

- Need to decide where to physically locate the booklets – bus shelter, Moss, Shop

- Marje to generate the explanation for FB

- Will we generate a poster advertising the website with the booklet – get Mary to do this based on the estimate (A4 size and nice and simple)
- Are we interested in updating the visuals of our website in the future.

Nature Notes

- Over 30 reports – seemed to be popular
- Now on the WT website
- Jeff will continue to send updates out every week
- Edited version for the Kinross website – Louise to action
- Will be put on FB by Mike

Dipwell Data

- Stuart unable to join the Zoom meeting

Apple day

- Sunday the 27th of September is the planned date
- Will get this onto the front page of the Kinross newsletter

Activities

- Can we do Birch pulling in the summer – find a date
- Lothian and Bog squad on hold for November
- Everyone keen to continue the good work of Mike and Lesley

Potholes update

- All filled in by Scottish Water, thanks to Jeff

Kilmagad Wood Fact Sheet

- Can we generate a fact sheet on this
- Key events and facts from Louise and visuals from Graham

AOB

- Marje – Captain Carbon visits Kilmagad Wood booklet

Meeting closed at 20.30
