

Minutes of Woodland Group 16th of June 2020 – Zoom meeting

Woodland Group attendees: Louise, Jeff, Mike, Lesley, Marjorie, Graham, Dave, Charlotte, Nic

Apologies: Sheena, Gill, Callum, Elaine, Dave

WT update

- Nothing from Gill
- Still some funding for more scrub clearing – money is ring fenced but need to confirm date
- We believe Gary has Peatland action funding

Update in full from Gary below:

Portmoak Moss

- *Scrub clearance on the northern fringe of the raised bog (cpt 3b) which runs alongside what was once known as the "Tetley Trail" path. with some hand cutting along the drains (this will be followed up shortly afterwards with spot treatment using Glyphosate to control any birch regrowth).*
- *If this method proves effective we will look to use it more in future, especially on the drier fringes of the open area of raised bog.*
- *All the larger semi-mature birch along the southern side of this path is currently being considered for felling and stump treatment to reduce direct seeding onto the site.*
- *The contractor has been instructed by the Site Manager to retain any rowan.*
- *The felling of the none-native conifers and reprofiling of the raised bog on the western edge, plus the installation of several dams on the site is planned for late summer, subject to SNH funding.*

Kilmagad Wood

- *The recently planted area towards the top of the wood (cpt 1c) is shortly to be beaten up with sessile oak, as required, and spot weeded.*
- *The deer fencing on the lower slope (cpt 5c) is being temporarily repaired for this year.*
- *Fencing work currently in the work programme for 2021:*
- *Removal of all the old deer fence and gates in cpts 5a, 5c and 4f.*
- *Retention to a stockfence in cpts 5a & 5c (along the roadside and up the bank for 25m at each end) and installation of new stockfence high metal self-closing kissing gates & posts.*
- *All subject to budget approval later on in the year.*

PCWG Report to WT

- Raise concern about steps up to Kilmagad Wood need repair
- Couple of trees need sorted – Nic to share photo with Louise

Treasurers report

- Bank balance: £5,938.30 - £210 cheque for Kilmagad Wood booklet
- Accounts will be finalised
- Draft accounts indicate a net spend of around £900 as a result of Chris's bench

Transactions since last meeting

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| - Community Woodlands Association membership | 30.00 |
| - MD Creations (Bogtastic poster design) | 45.00 |
| - Wellside Power Wash (3 Orchard cuts) | 90.00 |

Cash in hand:

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| - Burns Ceilidh (for drinks left over) | 10.00 |
| - Portmoak Festival donation to next booklet | 210.00 |

Outstanding payment

- | | |
|--|-------|
| - Zoom subscription 15 May to 14 June 2020 | 14.39 |
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Portmoak Bog Booklet and Posters

- Booklet is completed
- Charlotte has made the posters and is putting them up
- Stuart has distributed some booklets in Scotlandwell – early feedback is positive
- Funding now available for a second booklet / factsheet – thanks to the Portmoak Festival and thanks to Elaine for her support/application - Marje to share a copy of the booklet with Elizabeth Porter
- Group to share ideas on the booklet – content and title – “Treetastic” Intent to aim for years 4-5 audience. Marje will generate a draft version for feedback once all ideas have been collated
- All ideas for the new booklet to be shared by the next meeting in July. A draft will then be produced prior to the meeting in August

Nature Notes

- Jeff has shared the latest version – very positive responses so far
- Fiona Mann from SNH really liked it and wants to use some of the photos
- Continue as is

Dipwell Data

- Stuart will measure in next few weeks

Apple day

- Sunday the 27th of September is the date
- Hall booked provisionally
- Need clear plan on social distancing – one way system
- Need another gazebo
- Pending updates on social distancing to finalise plan of action

Invasive species

- HB – not so much seen this year as yet – probably because Lesley has been clearing this. - Aim to clear ditches next to entrance to the moss and around the paddock to prevent spread into the moss – Louise to check if John has waders to facilitate removal of HB

- Make a plan – rota for removal. Proposed date of the 1st weekend, 4th of July at 11.00

Calendar.

-Will be discussed next meeting

Walking Map

- New map produced to act as a guide for walkers. Important to share and align activities to avoid wasted effort/duplication perhaps via a local group meeting
- We will add a link to the map on PCWG Website

AOB

-Mike took video of a red squirrel and spotted a grey squirrel marking on the same spot. Been reported to SSRS

-Mike also made a sighting of sleeping fawns – new photos available. Charlotte to make a sign warning dog owners

-Louise has almost finished text on the fact sheet on Kilmagad Wood

-Nic needs copies of leaflets on the Moss – we may need Gary to print new ones

-Request for moth trapping made by new enthusiast