

AGENDA

February 20th, 2024 19:30 Well Country Inn

1. Present: Dave, Louise, Lesley, Michael, Jeff, Sheena, Charlotte, Elaine, Tanji, Susan Forde, Linda Gibson, David Gibson

2. Apologies: Stuart, Dave C, Graham, Marj, Izzy, Nic, Stu, Calum,

3. Previous meeting Minutes. Jeff propose Louise second, **Tanji** to put them into PDF format.

4. Treasurer's report. Nothing very much

5. WT update: WT Update: From Izzy.

* Kilmagad management plan now out for consultation until 8 March

* I am working on edits to the Portmoak management plan and should have something to share with the group soon, I will do public consultation after PCWG have had first comments/edits

* Outer loop path should now be clear of trees

* Contractor has put in wooden logs to bolster dams 118/119

* Contractor is due to replace a couple more of the rotten sleeper bridges along the outer loop path near Wellburn houses soon

NatureScot Update:

* I submitted the application for a feasibility study for Portmoak, NS have come back to say that they think we have enough peat depth data already from 2013 survey and that NS have enough in-house experience to offer feasibility advice without need for an external feasibility study

* I've got a virtual call with Colin Castle and one of his colleagues (who specialises in forest to bog projects) next week to discuss further, so should have more updates in time for Bankhead Moss visit

Requests:

* Could everyone try logging into Assemble and having a look around, check out the training videos (in the news section) and update your emergency contact details? We are being encouraged to use it for communication with and between volunteers. It's our new way to claim for expenses and is being used to communicate about events with existing WT volunteers. Any questions, please ask!

* Would any of you be up for installing and collecting data from a few more dipwells on the western side of the raised dome? NatureScot were interested in starting to collect data from this area as it appears to be one of the driest parts of the bog with lots of regeneration (I've attached map of the 10 dipwell locations I have – is this still up to date?)

* I'm a bit hazy on the Portmoak summer festival: what it entails, how WT can help etc? Some more info would be great, as Alexa may have capacity to help out with organisation/promotion if useful. **Dave** to find out about the festival

* Would Dave B mind chasing Louise Gordon to confirm which bird box photos we can use? I sent her an email last week to generic Portmoak primary email address but had no response and would be great to be able to share some on our social media.. **Sheena** will take responsibility for more dipwells. **Izzy** please resend invites to A'b'dy. **Tanji**. Based

on feedback **Louise** will tell WTS that Assembly is useful for some things but not for volunteer to volunteer communications.

Peatland Action update

6. Birch Pull April 7th notes from SG after consultation with Scott P: birch pulling action on 7th April. He did not rule it out and offered to survey the work area for us on the 6th the day before, we can then mark out buffer zones around any active nests and stay away from them. I'll try to go with him and see how a professional does it for future reference. I've attached a data sheet on the two ground nesting species we have on the Moss although Stu and I have never seen Snipe nesting or even displaying on the Moss but that doesn't mean they are not or won't in the future. My personal opinion is that we should avoid any activity on the Moss from 1st April to 1st September (5 months). Can I just remind everybody I'm not an expert and will keep speaking to folks wot knows things, like Scott.

7. Plans for NatureScot survey: Deep peat on SW side of Moss (**Sheena**) sent photo to peatland action.

8. Kirk Update - From Alison Robertson of the Kinnesswood Development Trust:

1. I have e-mailed the property department of C of S to ask if they would consider part of car park as separate lot and explained why. Willy Robertson is also doing so.
2. Gordon (Vance) has checked size and title of the car park.
3. [I have started drafting an application for Community Purchase. Community right to buy \(Part 2\) - Land reform - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

The tricky part is that it is not intended to support the status quo but to support local sustainable development. But I am sure we can find suitable wording in collaboration with the hall.

9. Hydrological data Update: Jeff (approx. 10 min) much improved data - how to make it even better in future. **Jeff**. 2 para summary.

PCWG have been bog snorkelling since 2002 and manually gathering water table data from 20+ dip wells. In 2013 and 2014 PeatlandACTION installed two automatic loggers which provide a continuous record of water levels. Our manual data points track well with the PeatlandACTION records, which means that the two methods validate each other. SEPA have rainfall monitors not too far away, also giving continuous data. We know that long dry periods cause a drop in the water table and the Moss recovers quickly when rain returns. Can we quantify this? More ambitiously, could we develop a model which predicts the changes in water table over time as the rainfall varies? Can we estimate the relative contributions that drainage, transpiration and evaporation make to the loss of water from the Moss? That would be an important input to the Management Plan. It's going to take some medium difficult maths, but nothing venture, nothing win so we'll give it a go.

10. Kilmagad Management Plan Feedback to **Tanji** by Feb 29th

11. 'Assemble' WT Volunteer Platform Review (Izzy): see item 5

12. Bankhead Moss visit March 1st: Notes from SG: I think parking is a bit limited there. Also I thought it might be nice to book somewhere local for lunch afterwards and invite Jean and Alison from Bankhead to join us as a thankyou. It takes 40 minutes to get there so meet at 9:30? **Stuart** booking lunch

Organise an Autumn revisit the bird box. October . Big Thank you to Dave and Linda Gibson, The Kinross Men's Shed, Portmoak Primary School, teachers, teaching assistants, parents and all the bairns. But chiefly - ourselves.

Pruning 2nd March Saturday 1300. Elaine, Sheena, Jeff, Dave, Louise.
Monday 11th Sepa. birch pull. All welcome. If wet in the tent.
Easter Egg Rolling Easter Saturday

13.AOB **Sheena** to carry on naming the apple trees

Lesley Booklet dispenser is broke. New dispenser to be bought and copied by **Michael** Recruitment.

Lesley to invite Simons punters to the pruning event and the sepa birch pulling event.

Michael has worked out what area has been cleared

Michael is working out where the birch seeding is.

Come up with a date for pruning Christmas Trees next time

Louise asked if we wanted to get involved with a biodiversity mapping event before or after Easter. We said after.

Jeff? Is it about time we cleared the unsold Christmas trees and made the place look tidier?

Date of next meeting: March 19th, 2024