

Portmoak Community Woodland Steering Group

Meeting: 15th April 2004

Present KMcDonnell, J.Shepherd, B.Drysdale, L.Batchelor G.McShane,
M.Brown,M.McGinness

Apologies J.Hughes, D.Batchelor, R.McDonnell, H.Rolton, J.Gunnell, S.Garvie

Minutes of previous meeting held on 18th March 2004 agreed

Woodland Trust Update:

Volunteer Forum to be held in Edinburgh 24th April, invitations extended to group members.

Willow: G.McShane had contacted group members since the March meeting to express his dissatisfaction with JHughes response to species of willow planted out in Moss. Those present agreed that an abridged version of the email be forwarded to WT highlighting the fact that species are indeed native, making the case for them to remain on-site. The cost of the willow £15 has been refunded to KMcD.

Working Relationships with WT:

There was considerable discussion regarding the above, a requirement for a closer working relationship given the nature of activities to be taking place within the Moss this summer.

Request feedback from WT on matters arising from the minutes of meetings, also an indication of frequency of Woodland Officer attendance at meetings. More precise detail is also required in relation to dates for work being undertaken within the woodlands.

It was suggested that matters for which we require a response from the WT should be highlighted within the minutes, KMcD to address.

Beer Tasting: Tickets now available aiming for 60-70 to attend, all other arrangements as discussed.

Treasurer's Report £714.08

Viewpoint Indicator: no update

Bats: no update

MSc Study: Hilary has undertaken questionnaire survey, results/report available for May meeting.

Reforestation Scotland: KMcD to complete membership paperwork for the Community Woodland Association

Health & Safety in Forestry

Extensive discussion regarding h&s issues in relation to HSE guidance and activities to be undertaken in summer. May be a requirement to restrict access/close woodland during works. Confirmation required from Woodland Officer. Thinning of compartment 8A will be undertaken by WT appointed contractor.

AoCB

Tree Survey: The matter of recording significant trees within the parish was discussed, WT website holds a significant amount of info, kmcd to download.

Kilmagadwood: KMcD had spoken with Jane Gibson of the Paths Group who wished to explore the possibility of horse access to the hill via Kilmagadwood. KMcD requested that the prospective users nominate a route for consideration, this process would involve community consultation.

Birch Regeneration:

Lbatchelor raised the issue of significant regeneration along front of peat bank. Removal could be a work day, feedback required from WT

Kinross Show: KMcD to complete necessary paperwork for attendance. Have also been invited to put up tepee at Fossoway gathering.

Millennium Award:

Millennium fellows have been asked to consider applying for additional funds for local projects, these need not be linked to original submission. Paperwork has been completed and returned by KMcD and RMcD.

Possible project, curling club and pavilion also land purchase adjacent to the Moss.

Community Woodland signage to be pursued through Paths group.

Potential Funding available from Carnegie Trust

Awarded where required by rural communities, need to look at their criteria, Raise via J.Shepherd at Community Council. There may also be the possibility of match funding from P&K Council.

Glebe Field:

Those present agreed that it would be beneficial to connect our woodlands via access across the Glebe field. There is an outline planning application under consideration currently, the opportunity to gain some local benefit from this should not be missed.

The meeting was closed and the AGM held.

Minutes from previous agm agreed, existing office bearers re-elected.

Next meeting 20th May 2004, 1930hrs, Lomond Country Inn