

Portmoak Community Woodland Steering Group

Meeting: 21st Feb 2008 The Well Country Inn

Present: K.McDonnell, R.Barlow (WT) J.Shepherd, S.Garvie, J.Gunnell,E & D.Carruthers, L&D Batchelor

Apols: H.Rolton, R.McDonnell, M.McGinnes, L.Botten,M.Brown,A.Bradley

There were no minutes produced for the January meeting, as it was primarily to conclude arrangements for the Burns Supper.

Woodland Trust Update

Additional Land Purchase: Meeting held with landowner, to confirm arrangements in outline area 4.5 ha, agreed cost of £36.5k, both parties to pay own legal fees. Agreed to target completion for end of May 2008, but boundary clarification required. There is an element of the land albeit very small that is owned by the Church of Scotland, WT pursuing. WT has also requested notification from landowner should any further land become available.

WT would make an appeal to members, RB to advise of expectation re: local fundraising , SGarvie suggested we endeavour to raise 10% of purchase price. Following purchase there would be a Community Design day to consult in relation to paths, picnic areas, and the balance of deer fencing vs tubes to protect trees.

Water Level Monitoring Report: WT had reviewed data collected since restoration project began, long term water level increase of 2" per annum.

Large Logs:

KMcD has contacted Mike Demsey, he is struggling for time, but we are on his list for later in Spring.

Visit to Flanders Moss

HR has been in touch with David Pickett Reserve Manager at Flanders Moss to identify their success criteria in relation to birch control and overall 'health' of the moss. Significant effort has been made to arrange a mutually convenient date for site visit in Spring 2008, a weekend is possible, KMcD to ask HR to pursue.

Interpretation

SG has arranged to take this forward, KMcD has provided outline 'lifecycle' and supporting information.

Viewpoint Indicator

Ongoing

Treasurers Report

£1322.95

Postcards/Greeting Cards

Ongoing.

Burns Supper

Outstanding success, £684.13 profit to PCW, still awaiting invoice from Hall, KMcD to chase. Suggested that some details put on the website, content of speeches etc, make arrangements to get pictures for 2009.

AoCB

Number of Issues raised by L.Batchelor

Pagoda: This structure is rotten and poses potential risk to public, to be removed from site.

Refuge Area: This is being undermined by member of public known to group, discussed WT involvement in liaising with this individual to stop this type of activity.

Horse Manure: On path, more frequently. Riders should move this, out of courtesy for other path users however not the case, there is no legal requirement for horse manure to be removed from roads/paths.

Rhododendron: This is spreading, requires to be controlled.

Path Repair: Scotlandwell in Bloom have filled potholes along the road into the Moss.

Squirrel Pictures: JS to resolve.

Chainsaw Use: DB requires to undertake the 4hr First Aid Training programme to work within the Moss.

Workdays: JG,SG,MMcG to set monthly workdays where others can get involved.

Fundraising: Suggested a Christmas Fair within the MOss, pot up holly, scots pine, craft activities etc.

Next Meeting: Thursday 20th March The Well Country Inn