



Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd.
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MINUTES

A Board Meeting was held on Tuesday 8th December 2020
at 2 pm by Zoom online.

- 1) **Welcome to our Board Members & any apologies.**
In attendance: Alastair Moodie (AM), Douglas Locke (DL), Jimmy Sim (JS), Don Kamsley (DK), Frances Walker (FW) & Scott Black (SB).
- 2) **Approval of the Minutes of the last Committee Meeting held on 27th October 2020.**
The Minutes were approved - Proposed by DK & seconded by FW. AM will sign belatedly due to this being a Zoom meeting.
- 3) **Chair's Report including Charity Status - 'OSCR Meeting the Charity Test'.** AM will give an update on progress made to date with the preparation of the draft revised Memorandum of Association to put to OSCR.
AM, prior to the meeting, arranged that the board directors had a copy of his 'Notes about Achieving Charity Status' for OSCR. These are attached to the Minutes. It was agreed that as far as Companies House are concerned, the Board Members are Directors, but as far as OSCR will be concerned in the Memorandum of Association set up initially for the company they will become Articles of Association spelling out the constitution of the company as a charity, the Board Members will then be Trustees. The current Secretary (DL) is

also Company Secretary and this was agreed by the Board. Points raised and to be addressed - any conflict of interest; Corporate Membership voting rights; proxy voting; minimum numbers of board meetings annually; list of powers including additional power (c) on attachment; Charitable Purposes to be enlarged from the present three to five paragraphs to include diversity.

When these articles have been agreed by the Board and gain approval from OSCR, they will be put to the Membership at an EGM for final approval. In the meantime, AM will continue to work on the Articles of Association with the Secretary and OSCR prior to getting the Board's approval before putting them to an EGM.

4) **Treasurer's Report including bank account update.**

JS reported that the bank balance stood at £15,210.56 with one outstanding cheque to be debited for £59.93 giving a balance of £15,150.63. There were two cheques to be paid out shortly for £435.50 as the balance of cost of Donations Post and £1,260.00 for the Settlement interpretation panel and lectern. The Donations Post at £765.75 was funded by Co-op Local Communities Fund and the Settlement sign by LL&TT National Park.

5) **Secretary's Report including an update on a Forestry and Land Scotland Lease for Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd. Donations received to date for the "Upper Cormonachan Paths Project Fund"; donations received in the Red Squirrel Hide; donations received from 'easyfundraising' and update on the Co-op Local Community Fund's final total. An update on progress on the local contract to clear the CCW Rhododendron ponticum and the 'People Counter' October visitors numbers. An update on the provision of the 'Donations Post'.**

DL advised that the draft lease for the woodlands was due later this week according to the solicitors for Forestry and Land Scotland. The Upper Cormonachan Paths Project Fund had reached the required 5% from local donations and as at 30th November 2020 the total was now £17,087.79 including the promised £4,000 from Lochgoil Community Trust. The balance of £375.00 from the grant of £1,500 from Paths for All for the People Counter had been received. The Co-op Local Communities Fund had paid the balance of their funding amounting to £2,364.22 (UCPP Fund and Donation Post). The Donation Box in the Red Squirrel Hide had reached £378.49 since it was installed. It had purchased £293.64 in nuts and a replacement feeder leaving a balance

of £87.98 plus a 12.5 kg bag of nuts in stock. A £50 donation had been made to the UCPP Fund for the wedding that took place in the Contemplation Shelter on 20th November 2020. The People Counter recorded that 1,225 people had visited the woodlands in October and 519 in November. Grants and donations since 2015 to date have raised £65,324.70 for the woodlands and its projects.

6) **Report provided by the Membership Secretary on current membership to date will be given.**

DL reported that our Membership Secretary, Dennis Bolt, had advised there were 57 full members (plus 2 still to fill in their membership forms); 17 associate members (plus 2 still to fill in their membership forms); 2 corporate members; 2 associate corporate members and 6 life members. 84 + 4 in total. The 4 mentioned are not members until they have filled in their membership forms, currently noted as supporters.

7) **Update on the 'Upper Cormonachan Paths Project' including an update on the Settlement's interpretation sign. Update on National Park's planning approval of conditions and current position on availability of grant applications.**

DL reported that the Settlement interpretation panel design had been approved by the board members and the order had been given to Shelley Signs for production and this was now awaited. The National Park planning department are now awaiting Argyll & Bute Council's approval from the road department regarding the revised plans for water not reaching the road from the new car park. We are grateful to Anna Wynne for carrying out the revisions requested by the NPA. That leaves the junction signage to agree with the NPA along the proposed paths. This is not a priority until later next year. There are two large funders likely to open up for grant applications in the spring of 2021 - Lottery Heritage Fund and a replacement for the SRDP funding to replace EU money. Currently only Covid-19 funding is available.

8) **Review of October's 'Cormonachan Woodlands Art Trail' arranged in conjunction with Argyll Arts Collective.**

DL reported that the Cormonachan Woodlands Art Trail in conjunction with Argyll Art Collective had been highly successful in October. Three Argyll artists had provided sculptures, artwork and a labyrinth and 1,225 people had visited in October. It was suggested that this should take place again in 2021 and it was agreed.

- 9) Pre-agreed Volunteers Dates for 2021 on last Fridays/Saturdays of a month - 26th & 27th February, 26th & 27th March, 30th April & 1st May, 28th & 29th May & 4th June in National Volunteers Week.
This was confirmation of the dates previously suggested and the National Park have agreed to offer their volunteers to attend any of these date in 2021.
- 10) Any other Business?
No other business.
- 11) Date of next board meeting?
Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 3.30 pm by Zoom.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm.