



Cormonachan Woodlands

Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd.
The Secretary, Douglas Locke,
Cruach House, Carrick Castle, Argyll, PA24 8AF
T: 01301 703098 M: 07748 130976
E: Secretary@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk
W: www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk

Minutes

A Board Meeting was held on Tuesday 13th July 2021
at 2 pm

- 1) Welcome to our Board Members & any apologies.
Attendees: Alastair Moodie (AM), Douglas Locke (DL) and Don Kamsley (DK). Apologies were received from Richard Hall (RH) & Frances Walker (FW).
- 2) Approval of the Minutes of the last Committee Meeting held on 8th June 2021.
The minutes were approved, proposed by DK, seconded by AM - and will be signed by AM.
- 3) Chair's Report including approval for final CCW Business Plan and updates on progress of application being made to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for funding for the 'Cormonachan Community Woodlands Heritage Project' and update on the 'Heritage Project', including contractor's update. Update on National Park's planning approval of conditions and the grant applications including the Scottish Government's grant (SRDP -AECS -IPA) that was submitted by the Secretary on 28th June 2021.
AM had sent a proposed final version of the CCW Business plan to all directors for discussion and approval. DK referred to the list of key aims in the summary and noted that the core aims of maintaining and regenerating the woodlands were missing. AM accepted the comment and agreed to correct the omission. DK enquired about several aims linked

to the vision of a heritage project. One related to increasing inclusion and another to the role of volunteer guide. AM explained the need to develop a heritage project that would address the requirements of the National Lottery Heritage Fund. With a few amendments it was hoped that the final Business Plan could be approved for inclusion with the Heritage Fund application.

AM recognised the urgency of submitting the Heritage Fund application. Therefore, suggestions to include Argyll Small Woods Co-operative or Ardroy in a proposal for sharing a project worker would be difficult to achieve in view of the time available. He agreed to contact David Thorpe at Ardroy about developing a partnership for the project. He also agreed to contact Fiona Baker, archaeologist, to discuss her proposal for guide training.

DL had completed the SRDP-AECS-IPA funding application (for £130,391.04, including VAT). Assuming success, AM would request a similar amount from the Heritage Fund for construction costs along with a corresponding amount to meet the requirements for a full heritage project.

AM had drafted a letter he proposed to send to members. DL suggested that a version could be published in the August issue of The Wee Goil to reach members who do not access email and for those who buy the magazine at Drimsynie. DK noted the importance of the annual Gala Day for gaining members and their subscriptions and he hoped that an event would be possible this year when the pandemic restrictions were lifted.

4) Treasurers Report:

a) Treasurer's Report, including bank account update.

DL advised that RH had provided the CCW bank balance at 9th July 2021 as £14,453.16

One cheque not presented for £345 so true balance is £14,108.16.

Points of Interest:

£150 donation received; £25 Argyll Communities Lottery winnings donated back to CCW; a new life member, paid £250; and six members had renewed memberships for 2021 and a new member had joined, AOEC Trust Ltd. (Corporate).

b) AM asked how much of the bank balance was restricted. DL said the money donated to the Cormonachan Community Woodlands Heritage Project Fund (previously known as the Upper Cormonachan Paths Project) that was £17,437.24 less £4,000 not yet received from Lochgoil Community Trust = £13,437.24. So from the bank balance of £14,108.16 less £13,437.24 that leaves semi-unrestricted £670.92. The Red Squirrel Hide donation box balance is also restricted with a balance of £11.33 so the actual unrestricted balance for running the organisation this year is £659.59. It was agreed that DL would ask RH to keep the unrestricted funds separately recorded in future. In future, the Argyll Community Lottery and easyfundraising funds would be allocated to unrestricted maintenance as the Donations Post fund is at present.

5) Secretary's Report:

- 1) Secretary's Report including an update on donations received to date for the "Cormonachan Community Woodlands Heritage Project Fund"; donations received in the Red Squirrel Hide; donations received in the Donations Post; Argyll Community Lottery and from 'easyfundraising' and the 'People Counter' June visitors numbers. Website and Facebook updates. Update on Raleigh International's volunteers agreement. Update of BBC Scotland's 'Loggerheads' future television programme. Update on submission of accounts to OSCR and accounts & Articles of Association to Companies House. An update on LL&TTNPA grant application made to clear the remainder of the Rhododendron ponticum in the woodlands. Update on application made to Co-op Local Community Fund for funding from October 2021 to October 2022 for brown tourist road signs for two car parks and another Donations Post for the Cormonachan Falls area. Report provided by the Membership Secretary on current membership to date will be given. Approval of any new member applications.

Secretary's Report including an update on donations received to date for the:-

a) "Cormonachan Community Woodlands Heritage Project Fund" £17,437.24;

b) donations received in the Red Squirrel Hide £11.33 in hand plus about 20 kg peanuts in stock (£462.50 donated since collection box installed);

c) donations received in the Donations Post £128.06 this financial year (£142.52 since post installed);

d) Argyll Community Lottery £80.00 in 6 weeks including a £25 donation from a winner;

e) 'easyfundraising' £152.73 from 16 supporters.

DL has donated a 6 x A4 outdoor aluminium notice board (£114.12) to CCW to be erected next to the Carrick Castle Community Trust's village notice boards for publicising CCW in the village to locals and visitors.

The 'People Counter' June visitors numbers were 987 (33 pd).

Website and Facebook updated.

Scott Black resigned as a director on 9th July.

Raleigh International's volunteers arrangements expected from autumn 2021 onwards.

BBC Scotland's 'Loggerheads' future television programme - producers have visited the woodlands and are now awaiting BBC's formal contract due in next week or so.

Accounts have been submitted to OSCR and accounts & Articles of Association to Companies House.

LL&TTNPA grant application of £11,160 was made to clear the remainder of the Rhododendron ponticum in the woodlands - this goes to their decision making team on 12th August 2021.

An application has been made to Co-op Local Community Fund for funding from October 2021 to October 2022 for brown tourist road signs for two car parks and another Donations Post for the Cormonachan Falls area.

The Membership Secretary, Dennis Bolt (DB) has advised the current membership to date is 101 members. There were fifteen past members who had not yet paid their subscriptions for 2021. DB asked DL to e-mail them a reminder which was done on 7th July. Four responded immediately paying their subscriptions for 2021 and eleven have yet to respond.

Approval of the following new member applications agreed:-

a) Solomon Lamagni-Miller (Life Member)

b) AOEC Trust Ltd. (Corporate Member)

DB will be advised to confirm their memberships.

6) Report by the Volunteers Leader on the Volunteers Day of 25th June 2021 and future strimming and maintenance requirements in the woodlands.

- a) FW reported she had thanked all who attended our Volunteers Day on Friday on the 25th of June. All three buildings were painted, car park, part of squirrel trail and around the Contemplation Shelter strimmed plus an area for camping was cleared for the BBC Scotland's 'Loggerheads' future programme and Raleigh International group for camping. Six volunteers attended, 14 CCW hours 9 National Park hours . No-one has yet signed up for the 30th July yet so might need to cancel nearer the time and set a new date for strimming the rest of the paths. FW said she can do either the 23rd July or the 6th August. Strimming of all areas required. Anyone else can paint another coat on the contemplation shelter.

7) Any other Business?

a) Any other Business?

b) Date of next board meeting?

- a) 1. DK said that a lot of visitors to the woodlands were now using the Clach Bhadach entrance but also leaving the same way and as such were not being counted by the 'People Counter' in the car park. He said that he had cleared back the entrance there as it was getting overgrown. DL said he had been topping up the CCW leaflets there too. DK suggested trying to get another grant for a second counter at Clach Bhadach and DL said he would look into available grants as they became available. DL said that the 'Where to go in Loch Goil' leaflets had now been picked up from the woodlands leaflet holders by over 100 visitors.
2. AM said did we really need to look for another board member as although there was provision for up to eight, we had five. DL said he was looking for another member who would be a long term member and had identified one for later on.

b) Date of next board meeting?

Friday 13th August 2021 at 2 pm by Zoom

The meeting closed at 4 pm.

