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Minutes

A Board Meeting was held on Tuesday 20th April 2021
at 2 pm by Zoom online.

- 1) **Welcome to our Board Members & any apologies.**
Those in attendance were Alastair Moodie (AM), Douglas Locke (DL), Jimmy Sim (JS), Don Kamsley (DK) & Frances Walker (FW). Apologies were received from Richard Hall (RH) & Scott Black (SB).
- 2) **Approval of the Minutes of the last Committee Meeting held on 23rd March 2021.**
The minutes were approved by DK and seconded by FW and will at a later date be signed by AM.
- 3) **Chair's Report including any updates on progress of application to be made to National Lottery Heritage Fund for funding for the Upper Cormonachan Paths Project.**
AM said that his main report was on the Business Plan which he had sent out just prior to the meeting and that DL had commented on with a number of points just prior to the meeting. RH had also responded to this which DL had addressed in his response and DK had also approved DL's comments. The Business Plan was well put together and AM was thanked for his work on it that was an important part of the forthcoming application for funding the Upper Cormonachan Paths Project (UCPP) to be applied for by 22nd May 2021 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

A discussion was held regarding the 14-page content where AM took in the comments regarding the addition of the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park (LL&TTNP) and Loch Goil Community local plans that were outlined in the pre-application on the Heritage Fund's application website. DL said he would pass on the access again to the work that DL & DK had already put in to this funding work.

Various points were brought up that included the relief of LL&TTNP 'Hotspots' where the UCPP could assist to draw visitors to the Loch Goil area; the many letters of support the CCW had received from the Scout Centre and Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre but both currently closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic and other organisations; the fact that the CCW had 12 risk assessments already agreed and in operation; that the Ardroy MoU needed to be updated when they were back in operation and that their Centre Manager, David Thorpe had tendered his resignation to leave by September; that the National Park Volunteer Rangers did monitor the woodlands during the main season at weekends; that another Artworks Trail for October was in the planning stage; and that many milestones have already been achieved as follows: UCPP such as application for planning permission; approval of planning application; tendered the work out to five constructors and one had been approved; planning conditions had been met including the funding and completion of the Medieval Settlement archaeological survey approved by WoSAS and the National Park with the interpretation sign ready for erection on site; that the CCW had raised the 5% of the construction costs raised by donations locally; that the organisation had converted to a limited company by guarantee; that a lease of the woodlands had been agreed for 20-years and that the company was now a charity through OSCR. These are considerable milestone achievement over the last two years.

AM said that he would update the Business Plan and send it out to the board members following consultation with DL and others. It would have to be agreed not later than the next board meeting that would be held earlier than usual so that AM would have time to complete the Expression of Interest application form to the Heritage Fund by the 22nd May.

4) **Treasurer's Report including bank account update and draft accounts for 2020/2021.**

JS reported that the bank account balance was £14,018.46 and that there was one outstanding payment to make of £13.00 making the balance £14,005.46.

JS agreed to meet DL on Friday 23rd April to finalise the

accounts for the year to 31st March 2021 that were ready and balanced. Once JS & DL had both approved them they would be sent to the auditors for approval. JS said that the new accounts for 2021/2022 were underway and he would meet up with SB for him to take over them giving him all the advice he needs. JS has agreed to remain Treasurer until the AGM when SB will officially take over the role.

- 5) **Secretary's Report including an update on the Forestry and Land Scotland signed Lease for Cormonachan Community Woodlands that took effect on 1st April 2021.**
Donations received to date for the "Upper Cormonachan Paths Project Fund"; donations received in the Red Squirrel Hide; donations received in the Donations Post and from 'easyfundraising' and the 'People Counter' March visitors numbers. Website and Facebook updates.
Update on Raleigh International's volunteers agreement.
An update on progress on the local contract to clear the CCW Rhododendron ponticum and a future grant application to be made to clear the remainder in the woodlands.
DL said the Lease with Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) became active on 1st April 2021. Energy Law, CCW solicitors very kindly made no charge for their services. DL e-mailed them thanking them.
Confirmation Certificate (Annual Return) accepted by Companies House on 1st April 2021.
Upper Cormonachan Paths Project Fund = £17,251.70 that includes £4,000 held by Lochgoil Community Trust.
Red Squirrel Hide donations to date had only £9.53 in hand.
Donations Post = £17.57. These donations are for the maintenance of the woodlands.
easyfundraising = £73.96 with 16 supporters, an increase of one this month.
People Counter for March 329 (average 11 pd). Previous months - February 265 (average 9 pd); January 185 (average 6 pd); December 2020, 272 (9 pd); November 2020, 519 (17 pd) & October 2020 1,225 (40 pd). A total of 2,795 visitors over the 6-month winter period.
Rhododendron ponticum local paid contract - 316 hours completed, 17 hrs reserved for spraying & plugging pesticide TD has sprayed Cormonachan Burn area (6 hrs) leaving 17 hrs to complete the contract.
G Fletcher didn't reply to any chasing e-mails for two months and let good weather pass by so dismissed for the remainder of the contract as TD said he would complete it.
New funding to apply for Phase 2; Tom Ducat and two others have submitted tenders to clear whole area, compartments

1-13, two for £10,500 over 4 months in autumn 2021. One further quote for £12,600 received as three quotes required by National Park. This fund is likely to open in end April/May 2021 for autumn 2021 work, if approved. Website up to date and Facebook as well with 274 people liking the page and 302 people reached this last month. FLS advised the diseased Larch at the south west corner of CCW above the Settlement was being felled from 15th March for about three weeks - the area is prohibited from visiting during this period. Area appears to have been felled awaiting confirmation. The timber will be removed in three months time.

DL has been chasing McGowan's for a meeting to breakdown of the costs relative to the SRDP AECS for Improving Public Access funding that closes on 30th June. This fund is likely to have an extra funder required to meet the total cost. DL & AM met Sam Hesling of McGowan's on 19th April in the woodlands.

DL presented the draft Supplementary Accounts for approval.

Volunteering time came to a value of £15,179 to 2021 against £20,245 in 2020 and £19,530 in 2019.

DL prepared a draft of 'Where to go locally in Loch Goil' for LGH & CC. This was forwarded to Tim King for approval of the Lochgoilhead area before we print on A5 sheets to display in waterproof A5 holders in the woodlands.

- 6) **Report provided by the Membership Secretary on current membership to date will be given.**
Membership 67 full, 16 associates, 2 corporate, 2 associate corporate and 7 life = 94 members.
- 7) **Approval of any new member applications.**
The following new memberships were approved - Ruth Taylor (Associate); Sarah Jays (Full) & Adrian & Jennifer Hart (both Full).
- 8) **Report by the Volunteers Leader on the Volunteers Days of 26th & 27th March and the tasks to be undertaken on 30th April & 1st May 2021.**
FW said there had been two volunteers Days since her last report that were on 26th & 27th March. The 26th had four volunteers for 4 hours each including 3 members and one National Park volunteer from Argyll. The work included rolling the newly cut logs off the new path route and piling up the brash for later burning. On the 27th four volunteers for 3 1/2 hrs each continued with the same work of the

previous day and a dead tree was cut up to allow access to the newly discovered waterfall hidden behind it. FW said that on the next Volunteers Days on 30th April and 1st May, the rolling of the logs off the new path route would continue and it was hoped to start the painting of the CCW structures, including the floor of the Contemplation Shelter, subject to suitable weather.

- 9) **Update on the 'Upper Cormonachan Paths Project', including contractor's update. Update on National Park's planning approval of conditions and funding policy on the current position on availability of grant applications including the AECS grant (SRDP) possibility.**
There were no further updates other those already mentioned.
- 10) **Update on the application to the Scottish Forestry for a felling licence to clear the Sitka spruce in the area from the top junction on the Squirrel Trail south to where new tree planting has been taking place.**
DL advised that our felling licence application had been received and confirmed by Scottish Forestry and that this would take about three months for a decision.
- 11) **Any other Business?**
DL said that a date for the AGM would need to be set at the next board meeting and at that meeting the members would need to approve the new Articles of Association that had not only been approved by the board of directors but also by OSCR, the Scottish Charity Regulator. The Articles together with the Minutes of the AGM have to be lodged with Companies House. As 21 days notice has to be given to the membership, the AGM will not take place until June.
- 12) **Date of next board meeting?**
The next board meeting will be on Tuesday 11th May 2021 at 2 pm by Zoom.

The meeting ended at 3.50 pm.