



# Cormonachan Woodlands

Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd.  
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## Minutes

A Board Meeting was held on 27th October 2021

- 1) Welcome to our Board Members & any apologies.  
**Attendees:** Douglas Locke (DL), Frances Walker (FW), Richard Hall, (RH) & guest Adrian Hart. Apologies were received from Don Kamsley (DK).
- 2) Final approval of the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on 10th September 2021. Future Minutes to continue to be provided by each section leader using template and forwarding text to the Secretary.  
The minutes were approved and signed, proposed by RH, seconded by FW and signed by DL.
- 3) Chair's Report given by Don Kamsley including an update on the application made to the 'National Lottery Heritage Fund' and other business.
  - a) DK asked DL to give his report on an update on the application made to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. DL advised that there had been no questions asked since the application had been submitted on 24th September 2021. Many hours of work had been put into the application of 34 pages with 30 letters of support for the heritage paths project. CCW is seeking £126,987.46 from the NLHF after the CCW is contributing £17,500.00 from local donations and £107,759.20 from the Scottish Governments 'Improving Public Access' Fund. A decision from both funds is due by the end of November 2021. A further £900.00 of

funding has been requested from the Lochgoil Community Trust for 2 self-closing gates to the PAWS area and 6 finger posts as way markers to complete the full funding required for the contractor to proceed.

- 4) Treasurer's Report, including bank account update.
  - a) RH provided the current bank balance that was £13,934.52 with £434.52 useable. £660.00 taken from the restricted total was for 1,000 pesticide plugs as part of the Rhododendron ponticum clearance contract, however that money will be returned as it forms part of the NPA grant for that work.
  
- 5)
  - 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; Smile at Amazon and from 'easyfundraising' and the 'People Counter' September visitors numbers and the first year's numbers recorded.  
Website and Facebook updates.  
Update of BBC Scotland's 'Loggerheads' television programme filmed between 13th to 16th September 2021.  
An update on LL&TTNPA grant application now approved 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.  
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.  
Report on any other funding applications.  
Update on MoU between CCW & Ardroy.  
Update on the Cormonachan Woodlands Art Trail from 2nd to 30th October 2021 through Argyll Arts Collective.  
Update about Raleigh International volunteering and

COP26 with the Amazonian Delegation visit on 7th November.

Update on agreement to apply for a grant for another 'People Counter' for the Clach Bhadach entrance to the woodlands.

Information requested about the costs for a potential application for a grant for a Quad Bike with Mower/Flailer and storage shed from July meeting delayed to this meeting.

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

Approval of any new member applications.

- a)
- 1) CCW Heritage Paths Project Fund = £17,500.00.
  - 2) Red Squirrel Hide Donations = £56.10 in hand (£448.17 spent on 350 kg Peanuts having raised £536.95 since the box was installed).
  - 3) Donations received in the Donations Post = £267.08 (01/04 to 13/10/2021).
  - 4) Argyll Community Lottery = £113.00 (3/5 to 11/10/2021 (19 free tickets had been won and total included £25 donation from one winner). Our first year it is expected to raise £208.00 from current 8 supporters. RH suggested we should ask more members to support this.
  - 5) Smile.amazon.co.uk - not known until after mid-November as they do not give access on commissions.
  - 6) easyfundraising £181.06 from 14 supporters to 28/9.
  - 7) People Counter for September = 2,190 Ave (73 p.d.)  
People Counter for first year = 9,081 (Ave 25 p.d.).
  - 8) Website & Facebook pages updated regularly.
  - 9) BBC Scotland's woodlands programme - Episode 3 in CCW successfully completed between 13th & 16th September. Awaiting advice when this series will be shown on television.
  - 10) Rhododendron ponticum clearance contract has been awarded to local contractor, Tom Ducat upon confirmation that CCW has been awarded the funding for the clearance work and 1,000 pesticide plugs. Work commenced on 25/10/2021, 3 to 4 days a week until mid-February 2022.
  - 11) Co-op Local Community Fund - Unfortunately 10,000 applications had been made for this funding and we are not to be a beneficiary this year.
  - 12) No updates on LL&TT National Park's planning approval as none expected until commencement of construction when Argyll & Bute Council road

department road access form has to be completed and NPA will conduct site visit.

13) SRDP - AECS - IPA funding application passed the site visit to Nature.Scot to perform. DK & DL attended the site visit where their Operations Officer said the CCW had met the points required and would be recommended for the funding requested of £107,759.20. The decision was due in November 2021. Due to a quirk in their system, despite requesting was an additional £900 for 2 gates and 6 finger posts prior to the closing date at the end of June 2021, this was not accepted as being out of time.

14) In view of the above, CCW has applied to the Lochgoil Community Trust for £900 to fund these items.

15) The MoU between CCW and Ardroy OEC has yet to be signed but has been requested to be by 1st November 2021 for 10 years.

16) The Woodlands Art Trail 2021 commenced on 2nd October for the month of October, however this has been extended to 7th November due to the Amazonian Delegation's COP26 visit to CCW. There are currently 29 artworks on display around the 2.5 km blue paths walk with two further items still to be added. This is an event arranged in association with Argyll Arts Collective.

17) Raleigh International are liaising with the Amazonian Delegation for COP26 with the Woodlands Trust and the Alliance for Scottish Rain Forests. This event is to take place on 7th November 2021 in CCW and in the Lochgoilhead Village Hall. The events will be by invitation only since the hall can only take 130 max people. Each organisation is being allocated a number of people who will be able to attend. The number to visit CCW will be further restricted as the ceremony there will take place in the Contemplation Shelter. An Oak tree will be planted by the Amazonians. This 2m tree at a cost of £44 has been donated by the Tree Shop, Cairndow with a bag of compost and DL has thanked the donors. The board members have agreed to give a gift of the CCW Photo Book of CWA/CCW's first 20 years (1998 to 2018) to the Amazonians at a cost of £38.44. The invitations to each part of the event will be sent out as soon as the schedule for the whole event has been forwarded to us. A site visit has been undertaken.

18) As part of the above event, Raleigh International are sending 12 volunteers to help in CCW between 1st & 7th November to undertake various tasks each day.

19) We are also welcoming back the Fife Conservation Group for the weekend of 6th & 7th November to fell Sitka spruce trees in our felling licence to the west side of the top Squirrel Trail path.

20) CCW has applied to the Scottish Government's Inspiring Scotland for a second 'People Counter' for the Clach Bhadach entrance at a cost of £2,076.00.

21) Cost of a towed motorised Mower/Flailer = £5,928 inc. VAT. Cost of a 4WD Quad Bike = £8,113.20 inc. VAT & delivery. One quad bike member has volunteered to tow the Mower/Flailer on the paths. It is possible to obtain funding for this item but is to remain on hold.

22) Membership Update: Membership remains at 103 members. No new members in October 2021.

23) New members for approval: None.

6) Report by the Volunteers Leader on the volunteers days of strimming in September 2021 and moving of sculptures and requirements for Team Leaders for the autumn Volunteers Days of 29th & 30th October and 26th & 27th November.

Tasks to be agreed for Fife Conservation Group (6th & 7th November), Raleigh International (29th October to 7th November) and our local/NPA volunteers days.

a) Volunteer Leader Report by FW:

Volunteer Report September/October 2021

September 27<sup>th</sup> - 9 volunteers (FW, DB, GB, JG, AM, JH, IP, DL & DK) plus one member of the Loggerheads team. Task: to dismantle, move and reassemble some of the sculptures built by the Loggerheads teams. Moved most of the sculptures and reassembled the squirrel poles sculpture at the NW corner of the woodlands. Some pieces were left for assembling at a later date.

Total hours worked 43.

Strimming done by two members (DK & DB) to accommodate some of the musical sculptures nearby the contemplation shelter.

Approx 4 hours worked.

Mon 4<sup>th</sup> October DL and FW met up with Kenny from Forestry Land Scotland to identify two large trees to be cut back.

4 Hours worked.

30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> of October, two days of volunteering planned to prepare for the next group of volunteers from Raleigh International, we are expecting 12 young volunteers and their leaders to arrive on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October to work in the woodlands for one week, we expect this to be a yearly visit. At the same time on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of November we are welcoming back our Fife Conservation Group volunteers who will be felling some of the 210 Sitka spruce that we have a felling licence for which have been flagged for removal.

7) Any other Business:

- a) 1) Requirement to increase board membership  
DL said that the board members would like to increase the number of board members. AH was invited to attend the meeting as an interested member. After attending this meeting he was asked to consider this matter and the board members would too.
- 2) Any other business?  
There was no other business.
- b) Date of next board meeting? - Date to be decided for early December.