



Cormonachan Woodlands Association The Secretary, Douglas Locke, Cruach House, Carrick Castle, Argyll, PA24 8AF T: 01301 703098 F: 01301 703098 (on request) E: Secretary@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk W: www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Cormonachan Woodlands, Loch Goil, Carrick Castle, Argyll on Sunday 12th June 2016 at 12.30 pm

1) Welcome & Apologies

Liz Evans, Chair of the Association welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies for those who could not attend - Forrester & Alison Cockburn, Dennis & Lynn Bolt, Irene McAllister, Ian Graham & Jim Graham. Those members in attendance were Liz Evans, Douglas Locke, Rowan Fraser, Sheron Hambly, Jimmy & Anne Sim, Simon Garnett & Kevin Smith, Jim & Joan McSorley and two visitors who happened to be from Forestry Commission England.

2) There were no minutes to approve as this was the Association's first Annual General Meeting since its formation.

3) Chair's Report

Achievements - The Association had become a not-for-profit functioning organisation with over 30 paid up members in its first year (28 Full Members at £10 pa, 4 Associates at £5 pa, 1 Corporate (Ardroy) at £50 pa & 3 child members (free). This income pays for the running of the Association (insurance, website hosting & domain renewal, stationery, etc.). All members' time is given on a voluntary basis which over the last year equated on Forestry Commission Scotland's valuation basis at over £10,000. This is very useful information as many funders ask for in-kind contributions when awarding grants. Many thanks to all those who have contributed to CWA over the last year. The Association has raised awareness of Cormonachan Woodlands as community woodlands locally at events such as Open Days and at Loch Goil Gala Day & Harvest Fayre and by committee members attending Scottish Community Woodlands

events and conferences. The CWA and Lochgoilhead school pupils were interviewed as part of a Scottish radio programme "Out of Doors" on their woodlands activities at Cormonachan Woodlands.

Paths - All of the 2.5 km of paths are now passable after 7 years of neglect resulting in head high vegetation growth. It is an ongoing task to keep them cut and we have two scythes for that purpose. Way marker posts have information on the different walks with the marker discs paid for by donations. Improvements have been made to the second entrance of the woodlands near Lochwood, opening up the old drove road from Carrick Castle to Lochgoilhead that went through Cormonachan Woodlands. While some work has been done by Community Services, it is still a bit wet in places and will need further volunteers to work on this section. Thanks go to all the volunteers who have helped in the woodlands over this last year.

Grants & Donations - CWA obtained two grants from Forestry Commission Scotland's Seedcorn Fund and Community Fund totalling over £1,600 for equipment and tools for volunteers use in clearing the paths and removing invasive species such as rhododendron and bracken. Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre has supported CWA with both donations and staff time that is much appreciated. Members should read the 2015/2016 accounts for details of the support given to the Association.

Car Park - 13 months ago CWA ran a consultation Open Day in the woodlands and the most pressing issue raised was the need for a bigger car park. Plans to increase the parking spaces up from two to eight have been drawn up by Anna Wynne, an architect member, and we are grateful for her donation of these plans which members should have seen by e-mail. A planning permission application has been submitted to the national park with a decision due by 22nd July 2016. We have a target of £4,000 of money to raise for the work that has been quoted for and the fund raising began on 1st June 2016 which so far has raised £279 from members and a possible £500 from Friends of Loch Lomond and the Open Day event today is in aid of the "Car Park Fund" as will be at the Gala Day event. The CWA is applying to funders for money and also for private donations.

Formal Agreement with Forestry Commission Scotland - Final stages in the negotiation have now produced a draft agreement which is being considered by all parties involved in the woodlands. The agreement will be for 10 years and have no annual costs and possibly cover an enlarged area from Cormonachan Burn to the burn above Lochwood and west to

the FCS forest road above Cormonachan Woodlands. The aim is to increase access for recreation, education and to restore and preserve the unique habitat of the Celtic Forest belt.

4) Treasurer's Report

Rowan Fraser said that the accounts to 31st May 2016 had been sent to all members by e-mail and were also available to members at the meeting. The good news was that with members' renewals of membership to date and new members joining since 1st June, funding for the running of the Association was secure for the coming year to 31st May 2017. As had been mentioned by the Chair, the "Car Park Fund" had £279 of donations from members to commence the fund.

5) Secretary's Report

Douglas Locke said that the website was kept up to date with 11 Members Updates having been sent out so far. The CWA's Facebook page was being kept up to date and was being looked at frequently by members and others. The work programme for the year ahead had been agreed by the committee (see website; History - alongside Minutes for March) and further volunteers days would start again in September and October.

6) Plans for the year ahead

Liz Evans said the Association's priority was to raise the money required for the car park work and the work programme to be completed by 31st May 2017. Those members who could support these aims by volunteering and/or donating would really help the committee achieve these aims.

7) Membership Subscriptions

The committee had recommended to the membership that the subscription charges to run the Association should remain the same as at present as the income should cover the costs of running the Association annually with the number of members it has.

8) Election of Officers

All six members of the committee agreed to be elected to the committee for a period of up to three years (see Constitution). Liz Evans, Chair; Douglas Locke, Secretary; Rowan Fraser, Treasurer; Sheron Hambly, Events Manager; Jimmy Sim, Member & Simon Garnett, Member's Representative (Ardroy).

Meeting was closed by the Chair.