



Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd  
c/o The Secretary, Cruach House, Carrick Castle, Argyll, PA24 8AF  
T: 01301 703098 E: Secretary@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk  
W: www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk

## AGM MINUTES

The Annual General Meeting of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association was held on Monday 21st September 2020 at 4 pm at Lochgoilhead Village Hall, Lochgoilhead, Argyll

*1) Welcome & Apologies.*

Don Kamsley, Chair, welcomed the other pre-booked members to the AGM - Douglas Locke, Jimmy Sim, Frances Walker, Dennis & Lynn Bolt, Cecilia Ferguson, Alastair Moodie & Scott Black. Apologies were received from Gordon Stevenson, Jacqui Matthews, Elizabeth Bain & Lorraine Kamsley.

*2) Approval of the Minutes of the last AGM of the Association held on Wednesday 29th May 2019.*

The Minutes of the last AGM in 2019 were approved, proposed by J. Sim, seconded by D. Kamsley and signed by D. Kamsley.

*3) Report by the Chair on an overview of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association (CWA) for the year 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020. This will be followed by an update on the creation of Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd. (CCW) to replace the unincorporated Cormonachan Woodlands Association.*

Don Kamsley gave a report on the Association's year to 31st March 2020. This included Dennis Bolt, becoming Membership Secretary and that he and Dennis had carried out a spraying of the Rhododendron in the woodlands in November 2019; 12 members had received First Aid at Work +F training in September & December 2019, funded by Scottish Forestry; he said that the Volunteers Leader position was still to be filled and that we had only

four Team Leaders and needed more and that three were active and one currently unavailable; Forestry and Land Scotland had felled 92 Sitka spruce & Larch along the proposed new path route from the Contemplation Shelter to Upper Cormonachan, the Settlement and the waterfalls area that they paid for at a cost of £950 - the cutting up of the felled trees was still to be completed by them later this year; replanting had taken place with 105 native trees away from the path funded by Woodland Trust; National Park planning approval had been given in July 2019 with conditions that were mostly being satisfied - archaeological survey of the Settlement was finalised by Fiona Baker of Firat of Rhu and the report is on the Reports page on our website, the private water supplies condition was satisfied by the EHO and the NPA, endangered species survey was approved and the removal of invasive species, particularly *Rhododendron ponticum*, have almost been cleared from the path's route with the last area being cleared on 25th September 2020. The big change to the organisation was becoming an incorporated limited company by guarantee with no shares but with each member having a £1 liability in case of the company being closed down. This change was agreed at a SGM on 9th March 2020 and on 19th March the new company, Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd (SC657915) was set up to commence on 1st April 2020. In order to affect this change all past members of the CWA would have to complete two new Membership and Subscriber Forms - a once off requirement on joining the company as in future year's only payment will be required. Don explained that the organisation had to change for two reasons - 1) to be able to obtain large grants where the organisation would have to also have a 20-year lease of the woodlands and 2) to be free to be able to maintain the woodlands using our own certificated chainsaw, ATV, pesticide sprayer operators that under our Memorandum of Understanding with FLS, they have not permitted the use of our trained volunteers for various FLS reasons. With the lease, we will be free to fully maintain the woodlands. At this point Don was going to continue with an update on the creation of the new organisation but Alastair Moodie suggested that this took place after the SGM when the CWA would be closed down and the CCW Ltd fully active. Don agreed and said that he was standing down as Chair but would remain on the Board of Directors. Jimmy Sim led a thank you to Don for his service to CWA & CCW as Chair and all clapped their approval. A new Chair will be voted on at the next Board Meeting on 27th October 2020.

The Chair's update will be given as a post-script following the AGM & SGM and items 7), 8) & 9) the voting for the election of the officers would also follow the SGM

*4) A presentation of the Accounts of the Association by the Treasurer to 31st March 2020.*

Jimmy Sim, Treasurer, said that all members had been sent copies of the official CWA Accounts for the year 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 and the Secretary's Supplementary Information to the Accounts that is required in order to obtain funding and keep members advised. These were approved by the members. It had taken five months to get the Cooperative Bank to create and move the CWA funds to CCW Ltd after a formal complaint was lodged. The bank finally apologised and credited our account with £50. At this point Jimmy advised the current bank balance was £13,387 as at 21st September 2020.

*5) Report by the Secretary on the year's work of the Association, Cormonachan Community Woodlands lease, funding, the website and Facebook.*

Douglas Locke, Secretary, said that most items for the last year had been covered by the Chair. The negotiations for the Lease from Forestry and Land Scotland had been ongoing since August 2019 and agreed in principle then. Currently the draft Lease is in preparation with FLS's solicitors, having had the heads of terms approved by a past member solicitor and the CWA committee and CCW board. It is expected that the Lease will be available for signing sometime this autumn. The website contains everything to do with our organisation, past and present as it is used as a data base for the records of the organisation. Scott Black commented that it did contain every piece of information that a member could wish to know. Douglas explained that all committee minutes, members updates, accounts, reports were all available as well as volunteering and everything else. He then reported on the funding activities - There have been no large funders offering non-Covid-19 grants since March 2020, so our 'Upper Cormonachan Path Project' is on hold with most of the application paperwork prepared for when such funds are open again probably in 2021. This fund stands at £15,090.26 although £4,000 of this total is still held by the Lochgoil Community Trust. Our target is £16,175 that's 5% of the construction costs, the amount required to be considered for large funding. Other funding includes the Co-op Local Community Fund that has now reached £956.66 and the Red Squirrel Hide box for feed has a credit balance of £80.61. The Co-op fund has already purchased £256 of signs being erected on 26th September 2020 from an advance payment. Further information will follow in the post-script regarding up to date additional funding. The CCW Facebook page has 225 regular followers.

6) *Report by the Membership Secretary on the CWA membership to 31st March 2020 and an update on the new membership of Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd. from 1st April 2020.*  
 Dennis Bolt said at the close of the financial year in March 2020 the Cormonachan Woodlands Association had the following members:-

<b>Full Members</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Associate Members</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Corporate Members</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Associate/Corporate</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Child Members</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Young Person</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Life Members</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>142</b>

As of 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 membership of Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd. is as follows:-

<b>Full Members</b>	<b>52 (7)</b>
<b>Associate Members</b>	<b>14 (3)</b>
<b>Corporate Members</b>	<b>1 (1)</b>
<b>Associate/Corporate</b>	<b>2 (0)</b>
<b>Life Members</b>	<b>6 (0)</b>
<b>Total Current Members</b>	<b>75 (86)</b>

Numbers in brackets denote the number of additional members who have paid their subscriptions but have not yet completed the necessary membership documentation and are therefore not legally members or entitled to vote. These members have been chased but have not responded to date. One life member of CWA has chosen not to become a member of CCW Ltd. however we have recruited one new life member this year.

The Chair said that with no Gala Day and the Covid-19 Pandemic, this has probably had an effect on past members joining the new organisation.

At this point it was decided to close the AGM and commence the SGM and the remaining points 7), 8) & 9) would follow in the post-script.

# SGM MINUTES

A Special General Meeting of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association was held on Monday 21st September 2020 after the Annual General Meeting at 4 pm at Lochgoilhead Village Hall, Lochgoilhead, Argyll

*1) Welcome & Apologies.*

The same members were in attendance as the AGM.

*2) The Chair will explain the reasons for this SGM which must follow the below paragraph in the Cormonachan Woodlands Association's Constitution:-*

*"Special Meetings - The Secretary shall convene a Special General Meeting at any time upon receiving a request signed by not fewer than 5 members. 12 days notice of all Special General Meetings and of all motions to be proposed shall be sent to all members. No other business shall be discussed."*

*The SGM has been called by six members of the Committee (Douglas Locke, Secretary; Donald Kamsley, Chair; James Sim, Treasurer; Dennis Bolt, Membership Secretary; David Thorpe, Ardroy OEC's Centre Manager & Francis Walker).*

The Chair explained the reason for the SGM and proceeded to item 3).

*3) An explanation will be provided why it is proposed that the Cormonachan Woodlands Association be dissolved and its funds and assets be transferred to Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd. under the Constitution following the SGM of 9th March 2020:-*

***Dissolution of the Association***

*In the event that the members decide to dissolve the Association, the committee will arrange for any funds remaining in the bank account to be handed over to a group which has similar aims.*

*A vote will be taken, by a show of hands, to approve or not the dissolution of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association with the transfer of funds and assets to Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd.*

A vote was taken and the Association was dissolved unanimously.

Post-Script under Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd.

*7) Membership subscriptions for 2020 to 2021 are recommended by the committee to stay the same as the previous year.*

Approved.

*8) Plans for the year - 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 and beyond by Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd.*

Don Kamsley said that AOEC Trust Ltd. was not a member of the CCW as the business was not currently trading and was not expected to be again until 2021 - The fact that 1,000 primary school children will not be visiting CCW for winter woodland outdoor education and other residential groups as well visiting Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre was an unfortunate outcome when trying to obtain large amounts of funding. Jimmy Sim, also a director of Ardroy, said that it was hoped Ardroy would be able to open again in the spring of 2021. Don said that the Secretary had applied for a grant of £1,500 against a cost of £1,575 for a 'People Counter' by the gates to the woodlands and was successful with the grant offered by Paths for All. The equipment is being installed on Saturday 26th September. Also, CCW has applied for £4,995 worth of Rhododendron ponticum removal from the woodlands with a good chance of approval early in October 2020 from the National Park.

Douglas Locke told the members that CCW Ltd was set up with himself as a director and Jimmy Sim as a member to establish the company with Companies House on 19th March 2020 for commencing on 1st April 2020. Since then, the initial formation members have been converted from committee members to Board Directors for Don Kamsley, Frances Walker, Jimmy Sim and Douglas Locke also taking on the additional role of Company Secretary in addition to being a Director. Douglas also mentioned that fund raising continued through 'GoRaise' that had now reach for the Path's Fund £180.93 and just recently 'easyfunding' was added that included Amazon with £13.55 in the last two months. All these commissions have come from 6 members in each scheme for sellers contributions of generally pennies that just mount up. Douglas said that the draft Articles of Association for the CCW Ltd are able to be viewed on the CCW website on the reports page. These will be discussed at the next CCW Board Meeting on 27th October 2020 before putting them to the members for approval at a SGM in the future. Charity status was also to be discussed at the same time.

9) *Election of Officers for Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd.*

*Past CWA officers were:-*

*Chairperson - Donald Kamsley*

*Secretary - Douglas Locke*

*Treasurer - James Sim*

*Membership Secretary - Dennis Bolt*

*Member - Frances Walker*

*Member - David Thorpe (not standing for 2020-2021)*

*There are eight places available for interested members to join the new CCW Board of Directors, one of which is reserved for a Volunteers Leader (see job description on the CCW website - Volunteering page).*

The following members were elected to the Board of Directors:-

Chairperson - to be voted on at the next Board Meeting

Director/Secretary - Douglas Locke

Director/Treasurer - Jimmy Sim

Director/Member - Frances Walker

Director/Member - Don Kamsley

Proposed at the meeting:-

Director/Member - Alastair Moodie

Director/Member - Scott Black

The above were voted on unanimously by a show of hands.

Membership Secretary/Member - Dennis Bolt

Dennis did not wish to become a Director but was willing to continue working on the membership.

There are still two Board Director positions available although one is a reserved position for a future Volunteers Leader. Any full member who may be interested in joining the Board would have to apply to the Secretary and have their name put forward to the next Board Meeting for consideration.

After a round of thanks to the past Chair, the meeting was declared closed at 5.10 pm.

*Note: This live meeting was held under strict Covid-19 requirements allowed in village halls. The new wing in the hall was used where it was just possible to accommodate nine seats in a circle, all 2-metres apart from each other. All members abided by the rules using the hall's hand sanitizer on arrival and wore masks and on exit from the hall.*