



Cormonachan Woodlands

Cormonachan Woodlands Association
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Minutes

A Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, 10th March 2015 at 2.00 pm at Donich Lodge, Lochgoilhead, Argyll, PA24 8AL

- 1) A welcome was made by Liz Evans to the full committee in attendance [Liz Evans (LE), Jimmy Sim (JS), Marion McCune (MM), Douglas Locke (DL) & Rowan Fraser (RF)] and thanks given to MM for hosting the meeting.
- 2) The Minutes of the last Committee Meeting held on 4th February 2015 were approved, proposed by JS and seconded by LE.
- 3) A report on the visit to the Cormonachan Woodlands on 16th February 2015 was given by LE that was attended by LE, DL, MM & RF. It was a useful walk for the committee to see the current state of the woodlands, paths, Jan's Hut and the site for the car park. LE would ask Dallas Seawright to clear the trees and branches off the paths when he comes with the Fife Countryside Rangers volunteers at the end of March. LE to also find out the SSSI status on the lichens in the woodlands.
- 4) JS advised that he had so far made no progress with regard to obtaining a lease or permission to use the woodlands for an Open Day from David Robertson (DR) at Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) despite follow up e-mails. He would continue to chase this important matter. Following the meeting DR contacted JS and has suggested a meeting with JS, LE & DL on either 23rd or 25th March in Lochgoilhead to discuss CWA purchasing the woodlands from FCS that would involve Elaine Jamieson, the Development Officer for FCS Argyll area. Confirmation of date & time to follow.
- 5) RF advised that the Cooperative Bank had not yet opened a bank account for CWA and that she still had the 3 cheques to pay in; the donations the association has received to date. She would contact the bank again.
- 6) Secretary's Report – DL advised that the website was up to date with all information up to date including the minutes from past meetings on the History page. Four people had been in contact regarding wishing to help/volunteer with the woodlands following the article in The Wee Goil.
- 7) LE gave a Report on FCS 'A Wood of our Own' held in Oban on 4th March 2015; Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) Roadshow regarding funding held in Balloch on 5th March 2015 and the Community Woodlands Association 'Procurement Workshop' held in Oban on 9th March 2015 and attended by LE & DL. She advised that there is plenty of funding available to woodlands from the Scottish Land Fund, Community Fund, Seedcorn Fund, ACT (DL paid £5 membership for CWA to join), SRDP for Forestry, OWL, Hutting, Woodland Crofts, National Forest Buyout, Branching Out – mental health group, Rhododendron Eradication Project – which requires partners. Whilst not all of these would be suitable for CWA, there were opportunities for CWA to access funds from the Scottish Land Fund to purchase the Cormonachan Woodlands.

- 8) Cormonachan Woodlands Open Day was set for Friday 24th April 2015 only as at present without insurance cover and transport the second following day, Saturday could not be covered by AOEC Trust Ltd. whereas the Friday would be covered under their insurance and the use of an Ardroy mini bus to ferry the 10 primary school children between the school and the woodlands. A timetable will be prepared to be able to pick up and return adult visitors to the woodlands from Carrick Castle and Lochgoilhead.
 - a) Forestry permission to use the woodlands for the open day still to be agreed with FCS (JS).
 - b) Transport / parking for Friday agreed with Ardroy (LE) – Saturday postponed for another date later in the year.
 - c) Insurance covered by Ardroy for the Friday 24th April 2015 (LE).
 - d) First aid cover for Friday will be covered by Ardroy staff (LE). RF also has a current first aid certificate.
 - e) Demonstrations / activities to offer any adults who attend on Friday will be planned after the meeting by LE & RF. The Carrick Castle Boat Club will loan CWA its 3m x 3m gazebo for the Open Day.
 - f) A detailed programme for the Open Day will be prepared by LE & RF.
 - g) A list of who is doing what for the event will be prepared by LE & RF.
 - h) Refreshments for the Open Day will be provided by Ardroy and MM.
 - i) Display Material (MM) will be prepared ready for the Open Day. MM will set up a Facebook page.
- 9) Applications to be made for funding partners to be made in due course: [Scottish Land Fund; Community Fund; Seedcorn Fund; Scottish Rural Development Programme; ACT & Community Rhododendron Control Project (CRCP)].
- 10) Insurance quotations being sought for annual cover to cover the Resource Centre, Jan's Hut and Public Liability for those using the woodlands (DL).
- 11) Membership to the CWA suggested to cover the annual static costs the association will incur (Insurance, website hosting, domain name renewal, administration costs). Those wishing to become a member of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association (CWA) should pay an annual subscription of £5.00 per adult to help pay for these overheads. Children under 16 (or 18) to have free membership. Donations will be sought to help make up any shortfall.
- 12) Car park – this most important development will be followed up by JS – quotation to be asked for from Drimsynie Construction (JS).
- 13) Suggestions for the CWA to attract walkers to use the woodlands paths – In the longer term build open sided shelters (planning permission not required) & erect natural art sculptures within the woodlands as an Art Trail in addition to the Squirrel Trail (local competition for Cowal artists). (see www.grizedalesculpture.org for some examples of natural art forms). In the short term it was agreed that we would add two Geocaches to the woodlands one on the Squirrel Trail and the other on the long walk. LE & DL will donate the boxes. It was suggested that a map of the Cormonachan Woodlands be displayed at the car park at a later date.
- 14) An invitation has been received to visit to Kilfinan Community Forest, Tighnabruich, Argyll - <http://www.kilfinancommunityforest.co.uk/> and a date will be made in the near future for the committee to see what can be done with a forest buy out.

The meeting closed at 15.50 hrs