



Cormonachan Woodlands Association
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Minutes

A Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, 3rd April 2018 at 4.30 pm at Cruach House, Carrick Castle, Argyll, PA24 8AF

1) Welcome & Apologies.

In attendance - Don Kamsley (DK); Jimmy Sim (JS); Douglas Locke (DL); Frances Walker (FW); David Thorpe (DT) & Cecilia Ferguson (CF). Sue Morris (SM) of Forest Enterprise (FES) sent her apologies.

2) Approval of the Minutes of the last Committee Meeting held on 6th March 2018 & any follow up reports (see italic notations in the last Minutes).

The minutes of the last meeting on 6th March were approved. Proposed by DT and seconded by CF and signed by DK.

3) Chairman's Report.

DK advised that the Red Squirrel Hide and storage shed had been erected on 12th March with the finer points still to be finished off (top coat of protection, film for the windows, additional flooring for the floor and gravel for the outside). He advised that DL had reported to the police the two separate thefts in a week of 6 x 20kg bags of gravel and 3 fence posts from the car park area.

4) Report on bank account position. Progress on Accounts for 2017/2018. Progress with the replacement Chair's signatory (DK) for the bank account.

JS advised that the bank balance as at 3rd April was £6,482.01 with only one cheque to Zurich Insurance of £5.00 not cashed (£6,477.01) - most of this money was donations received for the Contemplation Shelter. DK was now an authorised signatory for the CWA. JS hoped to have the final formal accounts for the year ending 31st March 2018 ready next week.

- 5) Secretary's report including update on current membership, an update on the website, Facebook update, latest 'Members Update' and Summary Accounts for the 2017/2018 for detailed information for members. Report on Argyll Wildlife Group meeting on 20/03/2018 & update on Argyll Holidays video of Squirrel Trail Walk.

DL advised that the website and Facebook were up-to-date and the last Members Update No 27 was sent out on 28th March 2018. The summary accounts to the formal accounts were just in need of being agreed with the treasurer next week and will be available for the AGM. So far, out of 76 members last year, 29 had renewed to date including a few new members that have joined. DL gave a presentation to the Argyll Wildlife Group at Benmore Botanical Gardens on 20th March on Cormonachan Woodlands. Quad Bike & Trailer permission was due imminently following the loss in the post of the original documents. The CWA has applied for the Community Woodlands Award 2018. 10 CW Volunteer yellow jackets have been ordered for events and volunteer days. We are still awaiting permission to add the 2 minute Squirrel Trail video sponsored by Argyll Holidays to our website & Facebook page.

- 6) Ardroy Report on work carried out in March in Cormonachan Woodlands (Rhododendron clearance by instructors and primary school children in Area 6 as marked out and assistance dates that can be given to CWA in April 2018.

DT advised that another 7 schools with 215 children had visited CW in March and cleared 20 Rhododendron bushes in Area 6 over 12 hours working there. There will be another 4 schools visiting in April before Ardroy starts its summer programme when it will not be doing any more work in the woodlands until the autumn. Ardroy will be helping with a strimming of the paths for a day in mid-April. Ardroy are also currently giving Lochgoilhead Primary School a free John Muir Awards course for the children.

- 7) Risk Assessments - Report on RA meeting on 09/03/2018 regarding the revised and reformatted 10 RAs and ratifying with signatures.

DK advised that 10 of the CWAs Risk Assessments (RAs) had been updated and prepared ready for printing and signing by the four committee members who had been reviewing them (DK, DT, FW & CF). These are now to be signed with PDFs made of each. The Quad Bike & Trailer RA was still to be finalised.

- 8) Future Volunteers Days - Report on Volunteers Day of 10/03/2018. - Next volunteers days tasks on 8th and 14th April.

DK advised that the last Volunteers Day was cancelled because of bad weather. The next Volunteers Days on 8th April (10 - 4 pm) & 14th April (10 - 1 pm) have a variety of tasks that need to be undertaken dependant on the weather (Replace 6 bags of gravel and take by quad bike & trailer to the Red Squirrel Hide area; take additional flooring for the hide floor by quad bike and trailer to the hide and lay; put top coat protection on the hide and shed; put one-way film on the windows of the hide; organise the contents of the shed and put up wall brackets for the strimmers; cut down Rhododendron ponticum; erect signs for Contemplation Shelter and Upper Cormonachan; move logs off the path and ditch by the totem pole area; move logs by the new shed; put post caps on the remaining uncapped fence posts and cut down small self-seeded Sitka spruce to the sides of the paths).

- 9) Update on CW Annual Maintenance Plan to 31st March 2018 and final approval of new plan prepared by DL & Sue Morris of FES for 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019.

DL advised that the Annual Maintenance Plan for 2018 to 2019 has been agreed with Sue Morris of FES excluding Item 20 (strimming the ATV track in Area 12 (see website link alongside last minutes)).

- 10) Update on Funding Projects - Red Squirrel Hide (LL&TNPA - Grant £1,420.14).
Future funding projects & training required followed by current situation.

The LL&TNPA Grant for the Red Squirrel Trail has now been received. It was agreed that the CWA needs pesticide sprayers. To apply for a grant, we need 6 members willing to go on a one day course with a second day 2 hour assessment. DK, FW & CF volunteered to be trained so we need three more members to volunteer before we can apply for funding.

- 11) Donations received for the 'Contemplation Shelter' in Cormonachan Woodlands in memory of Liz Evans and project

costs. An update on progress.

Donations received for the Contemplation Shelter have totalled £6,815.10. The costs of the project are:- Shelter £3,799.00; Groundwork including paths £2,073.60; eight internal roof panels of printed quotations £924.00; total cost £6,796.60. It is expected that the project will be completed by the end of April 2018.

- 12) Update on the events planned with 'The Walking Theatre Group' visit to Cormonachan Woodlands with two performances on Sunday 15th April 2018, one for children at 2 pm 'The Celtic Tree Walk' and another at 6.30 pm for adults 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Plan for CWA Marshals attendance.

Three CWA committee members will act as marshals at the Walking Theatre events with JS, CF & DL at the 2pm performance and FW, DL and another to confirm at the 6.30 performance. Marshals to be on site at least 30 minutes prior to each performance.

- 13) Suggestions for a date for the Official Opening of the Red Squirrel Hide and the 'Contemplation Shelter' as LL&TNPA, FCS/FES, FOLLAT and many others would like to attend.

As we do not yet know the date the Contemplation Shelter will be erected, it was suggested a longer date be checked with those who would be interested in coming to the official opening of the shelter and the hide. One date suggested was Wednesday 23rd May 2018 however if the shelter is up earlier in April the date could be brought forward to say 3rd May 2018. This date will therefore be reviewed and advised in due course. It was suggested that the Red Squirrel Hide be officially opened first followed by the Contemplation Shelter and a light lunch would be served in the shelter.

- 14) Any other business & date for next committee meeting?

Other business: The CWA will be attending the Lochgoil Gala Day in the car park in Lochgoilhead on 28th July 2018; the committee are very gratefully to Tom Currie for donating £25 to be able to replace the stolen bags of gravel and fence posts; GoRaise for Cormonachan has now raised £84.10 from 65 online purchases from just 6 members who have been using this fund raising service with no cost to themselves - it is hoped that more members will join the scheme; the next CWA AGM will be on Tuesday 1st May 2018 - the Agenda has already been sent out to all members.

The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th May 2018. The meeting closed at 6.30 pm.