



Cormonachan Woodlands

Cormonachan Woodlands Association
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Minutes

A Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 6th March 2018 at
4.30 pm at Cruach House, Carrick Castle, Argyll, PA24 8AF

1) Welcome & Apologies.

Don Kamsley, Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting including Cecilia Ferguson who had agreed to be co-opted on to the committee following a trial attendance. Those attending: David Thorpe (DT), Don Kamsley (DK), Frances Walker (FW), Douglas Locke (DL) and Cecilia Ferguson (CF). Apologies were received from Jimmy Sim (JS) and Sue Morris of FES (SM).

2) Approval of the Minutes of the last Committee Meeting held on 30th January 2018 & follow up reports (see italic notations in the last Minutes).

Proposer: FW Seconder: DT Signed: DK

3) Acting Chairman's Report.

Chair, DK advised that due to illness of one of the committee members, the meeting to discuss the Risk Assessments was postponed from 20/02/2018 to a future date to be advised.

- 4) Report on bank account position. Progress with the requirement to have another signatory (DK) for the bank account.

DL gave a detailed update on the Association's finances in the absence of the Treasurer giving the committee copies of the Secretary's summary accounts to date. This showed the subscriptions received, running expenses, donations and grants received and related expenditure. It also showed non-monetary donations, value of volunteers time and assets. All this information will be provided to the members at the next AGM that will be at a date after the end of the CWA's end of year on 31st March 2018. The Treasurer had provided the bank account balance to 27th February 2018 that was £5,828.89 that included the donations towards the 'Contemplation Shelter' that DL confirmed had now reached £5,760. The bank signatories alterations had now been submitted to the Cooperative Bank changing the Chair signature from Liz Evans to Don Kamsley.

- 5) Secretary's report including update on current membership, an update on the website, Facebook update and latest 'Members Update'. Report on AWOO Meeting 27/02/2018 & Argyll Holidays video of Squirrel Trail Walk.

DL reported that the current membership was now 76 with 2 new members joining in March for the year 2018/2019. Members joining in the previous month to a new year become members immediately with a free month. Invitations to members to rejoin the Association will be sent out shortly for 2018/2019. The renewal of membership is very important to the Association as it is our only source of income to run the Association that is roughly costing about £600 per annum even with no paid staff but just volunteers do everything. The new website is working well and is updated regularly and Smart phone friendly. Facebook is updated regularly too. Members Updates are currently up to No. 26 giving the members information about the Association and Cormonachan Woodlands. AWOO (FCS - A Wood of Our Own) was attended by DL on 27th February 2018 in Lochgilphead giving a presentation to the Community Woodlands Association with a video of the Squirrel Trail walk. DL advised we are still awaiting permission to show the final copy of the video on walking the Squirrel Trail in Cormonachan Woodlands from Argyll Holidays on our website but have been told this should be forthcoming soon. We have been told that Cormonachan Woodlands is to appear in the Scottish Field magazine in the near future. DL advised that the current workload of the Secretary was very high as the following were currently being dealt with - planning permission (approved), purchase, grant,

site clearance, delivery & erection of the Red Squirrel hide & shed; Planning permission (due by 4th April), quotations, purchase, ground work, paths, signage, donations, grants, delivery & erection of the 'Contemplation Shelter'; FES paperwork had included tree felling by Fife volunteers, use of quad bikes for access by trained volunteers working in CW, permission for the Walking Theatre events on 15th April and the Annual Work Programme that has to be agreed with FES each year; Applications for grants towards the Hide & Shed, Contemplation Shelter, training and signage now all agreed. We now are seeking funding from Scottish Rural Development Payments (SRDP) for the maintenance of the woodlands and Rhododendron clearance. The erection of the Hide & Shed will be in the next ten days and the Shelter in April 2018. Finally, the committee have agreed that the Association should put in an application for Scotland's Finest Woods Awards - 'Community Woodlands Award 2018' that closes on 31st March 2018.

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

DT advised that in the last two months of January & February, 12 primary schools had visited CW from Ardroy and that 380 children had cut down about 50 Rhododendron ponticum in 25 hours in Area 6. He expects the same predicted for March and April. Lewis McKay will be offered to work in CW by Ardroy for 5 days between 2nd and 16th April for strimming, chainsaw work and any other helpful work that may be required in conjunction with a CWA volunteer.

- 7) **Risk Assessments - Report on RA meeting on 20/02/2018 regarding the revised and reformatted nine RAs.**

A new date was agreed for the Risk Assessment meeting on Friday 9th March at 10 am at Ardroy to be attended by DT, DK, FW & CF.

- 8) **Report on Volunteers Days of 24th & 25th February 2018.**

The report has been published on the Latest News page on the website and on Facebook. It was agreed that it was embarrassing that so few CWA members volunteered at the last Volunteers Weekend when so many volunteers came from Fife, Cumbria and Loch Lomond and that they all love coming and enjoy coming back. We really need local volunteers to help. It's enjoyable knowing you are making a difference so come and help, please. The Volunteers Day of Sunday 8th April is now to be extended currently from 1pm to 4 pm to 10 am to 4 pm to allow National Park volunteers to come

again as they only want to volunteer for whole days. DL advised that he had attended every volunteers day since the Association was formed in 2015 but at the age of 76 was now struggling to do full days any longer. FW agreed to take over the running of the volunteers days paperwork and the committee suggested that he takes a break this forthcoming Volunteers Day on Saturday 10th March.

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

The CW Annual Maintenance Plan for 2018/2019 that had been sent out to the committee members prior to the committee meeting was approved. This will be added to the Association's website.

- 10) Update on Funding Projects - Red Squirrel Hide (LL&TNPA - Grant £1,440.14); Excavator for Ditch Cleaning (FOLLAT - Grant £500 & Donation of 2-days excavator hire by Drimsynie Construction - value £500); CW Information Signs (Lochgoil Community Trust - Grant £250) and Contemplation Shelter (Forestry Commission Scotland - Grant £500). Update on any other funding projects followed by current situation for each of these items.

All projects had agreed funding and were completed, underway or to be completed with funding received or to be received.

- 11) Donations received to date for the 'Contemplation Shelter' in Cormonachan Woodlands in memory of Liz Evans. An update on progress.

£5,760 in donations and grants received with anonymous donors offering to increase funding to £6,000. An incredible achievement in response to Liz Evans final request for a 'Contemplation Shelter' to be erected in CW. Shelter ordered, planning permission due by 4th April, awaiting groundwork, paths and signage quotes now that site visit has been made. Delivery and erection due in April 2018.

- 12) Discussion about the changes that will have to be made to the Constitution and put to members at the next AGM. See copy of current CWA Constitution and suggested proposed amendments attached.

The CWA committee members were concerned that having lost Liz Evans as the drive and inspiration of the woodlands for the last 20

years that they did not want to lose the current Secretary (DL) because of the wording of the Constitution under Organisation. So it was agreed to put the following amendments to the AGM for members to vote on. Delete "Members of the Committee may serve for 3 years and be re-elected for a second period of 3 years. Any member who has served for 6 consecutive years must stand down for a period of 1 year after which the member will be eligible to stand again for election." Replace with "At each annual general meeting, the members may elect any member (providing he/she is willing to act) to be a committee member. The committee members may at any time appoint any member (providing he/she is willing to act). At each annual general meeting, all of the committee members shall retire from office - but shall then be eligible for re-election. Associate members or children under the age of 16 are not entitled to vote or serve on the committee."

- 13) 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 5 pm for adults 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

The timing for the evening performance will be 6.30 pm not 5 pm. Three committee members will act as marshals for both events on 15th April. It was agreed that while the CWA is not charging for the venue, it is having to acquire formal permission from FCS and provide marshal control so it would be appreciated if Argyll Arts Collective would give a donation to the Association after the events. The committee see that the events will introduce the community woodlands to a wider audience and that they may be interested in becoming members.

- 14) A discussion about the benefits and disadvantages regarding Pete Clarke's talk at the last committee meeting, representing the Loch Goil Development Trust, on the possibility of Land Asset Transfer concerning the possible purchase by the Trust of the woodlands area of Cormonachan Woodlands (58.9 ha) and the forest area from Cormonachan Burn to Carrick Castle village on the basis of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association managing this whole area with financial support from the Trust. A decision to be taken by vote for or against Cormonachan Woodlands being included in this overall Loch Goil area purchase from Forest Enterprise Scotland or not and passed to the Trust.

A full discussion took place over the positives and negatives of this proposal. It was felt that the Trust should perhaps concentrate on

the Lochgoilhead forest area first which should be its first priority. A vote was taken on whether Cormonachan Woodlands and the two other areas suggested to the south of Cormonachan Burn should be included in the project or not. At the present time it was felt that the Association had enough of an area to manage and needed more volunteers to look after the current area so decided unanimously to decline to have Cormonachan Woodlands included in the project. Pete Clarke and the Lochgoil Community Trust would be advised of this decision.

15) Any other business & date for next committee meeting and date and venue for the next CWA AGM?

Other Business:-

- 1) Next Volunteers Day - Saturday 10th March - 10.00 to 13.00 hrs. DK would lead. Plan to continue with Rhododendron clearance in Area 3a. 3 other volunteers have so far agreed to attend - more hopefully will let the CWA Secretary know they can help out that morning. We have to stress that Cormonachan Woodlands really needs local members to volunteer to maintain the woodlands so please help us if you can.
- 2) FW advised she would provide a cake for the Volunteers Day on Sunday 8th April 2018 from 10 am to 4 pm.
- 3) DL showed a photo of a bench as a possible purchase for the inside of the Red Squirrel Hide at a cost of £65.00 subject to sufficient funds remaining in the Red Squirrel Hide Fund. DK & DT said they would look at making one and would advise accordingly.

The next committee meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd April 2018 at 4.30 pm at Cruach House, Carrick Castle.

The date for the Annual General Meeting of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association will be on Tuesday evening 1st May 2018 at 7 pm at the Lochgoilhead Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 18.45 hrs.