



Cormonachan Woodlands Association
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Minutes

A Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, 15th May 2018 at 4.30 pm at Cruach House, Carrick Castle, Argyll, PA24 8AF

1) Welcome & Apologies.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. In attendance - Don Kamsley (DK), Chair; Jimmy Sim (JS); Douglas Locke (DL); Frances Walker (FW); Cecilia Ferguson (CF) & Sue Morris (SM) of Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES). David Thorpe (DT) sent his apologies.

2) Approval of the Minutes of the last Committee Meeting held on 3rd April 2018 & any follow up reports (see italic notations in the last Minutes).

The minutes of the last meeting on 3rd April were approved. Proposed by JS and seconded by CF and signed by DK.

3) Chairman's Report including summary of Annual General Meeting & Constitution changes held on 1st May 2018 and slippery paths mentioned at the AGM.

DK advised that the AGM was attended by 11 members and the Constitution changes were voted on and passed unanimously. It was raised at the AGM that there were some slippery areas on the steeper paths. DL advised that an 'At Your Own Risk' notice had been put up about walking in CW on the notice board. DK said that the area reported would be looked into perhaps by adding boards across the path at the worst spots. SM said that if boards were

added to the paths then the FES would want quarterly path inspections instead of an annual one. DK said there was interest in having some weekday volunteers days for those who couldn't manage any weekends.

- 4) Report on bank account position. Possible new payment arrangements for renewal of membership annually (Direct debit/standing orders, etc.)

JS advised that the bank balance as at 15th May 2018 was £2,696.43 that included one cheque to Fyne Signs of £18.00 not yet cashed - most of this money was donations received for the Contemplation Shelter with one invoice for the groundwork to be paid on its completion of £2,073.60 leaving a net balance of £622.83 for the running expenses of the Association. The formal accounts for the year ending 31st March 2018 were presented to the AGM. JS advised that most members paid their subscription by bank transfer but some had asked to pay by direct debit or standing order and this is being taken up with the bank.

- 5) Secretary's report including update on current membership, an update on the website, Facebook update, latest 'Members Update'. Report on meeting with judges for the 'Scottish Community Woodlands Awards 2018' inspection on 1st May 2018, attendance of the Assessing Herbivore Impact event on 2nd May 2018 & update on Argyll Holidays video of Squirrel Trail Walk.

DL advised that the website and Facebook were up-to-date and the next Members Update No 28 would be sent out in the week after the Contemplation Shelter is erected on 21st May 2018. So far, out of 76 members last year, 65 had renewed to date with 9 previous members yet to rejoin having had 5 reminders. 14 new members have joined. DL & DK were interviewed by 3 judges in CW regarding the Scottish Community Woodlands Awards 2018 with the results expected at the end of May 2018. 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 April/May in Cormonachan Woodlands (Rhododendron clearance by instructors and primary school children in Area 6 and assistance dates that can be given to CWA in 2018.

As DT was not in attendance, this report was not available.

- 7) Risk Assessments - Date to be arranged regarding the revised and reformatted 10 RAs for ratifying with signatures and to complete the outstanding Quad Bike & Trailer RA.

The CWA's 10 Risk Assessments (RAs) were signed at the meeting by the committee members (DK, FW & CF) who had been reviewing them with DT to sign them after the meeting. These will then be PDF-ed and added to the RA page on the Association's website. The Quad Bike & Trailer RA was still to be finalised awaiting certain trained members responses. The final RAs will be sent to SM at FES. SM said that the CWA would not be allowed to 'paint' the Rhododendron cut stumps as the National Park had suggested as only fully certificated volunteers would be allowed to spray them. Four volunteer members have offered to go on a pesticide spraying course (FW, CF, DK, J C-S) however we need a minimum of six to run the course. Craig Walker (CW), National Park Volunteers Officer to be contacted with regard to using their trained volunteers. SM said there was now a lot of paperwork involved when spraying was to be undertaken giving us examples of the three forms.

- 8) Volunteers Days - Reports on Volunteers Day of 8th & 14th April and 6th May 2018. Next volunteers days to be mainly 'strimming' on sunny and windy days at short notice. Painting of the Red Squirrel Hide, Shed and Contemplation Shelter to be undertaken on suitable dry days also at short notice. Next scheduled Volunteers Days to be agreed in the summer for September, October & November 2018.

DK advised that the last three Volunteers Days on 8th April (10 - 4 pm); 14th April (10 - 1 pm) and 6th May (1 to 4 pm) prepared for the Walking Theatre events, laying 20 bags of gravel around the Red Squirrel Hide and shed, adding additional floors & painting the hide and shed and cutting down Rhododendron on the north side of the Cormonachan Burn. E-mail to be sent to members requesting volunteer help to carry the shelter timber sections up to the site on Monday 21st May from 9 am to about 10.30 am. There will be a quad bike and trailer on site to move the 8 triangular roof sections and the internal printed panels that are the biggest items, most of the shelter is made up of looser timber parts.

- 9) Update on future funding projects (new path to Upper Cormonachan & the waterfalls from the Contemplation Shelter) & training required for spraying Rhododendron ponticum.

DL advised that the proposed path from the Squirrel Trail and Contemplation Shelter to Upper Cormonachan, the waterfalls and joining the forest road to the main road by Cormonachan Burn has

now been marked, GPS tracked and surveyed by Phil Thompson of Ardroy and Allan Campbell of Drimsynie Construction and the map was now prepared for costing, grant application and planning permission. There is 100% grant funding available through SNH but the cut off date for applications is 31st May 2018 which leaves little time to prepare the applications. SM said that she felt planning permission had to be obtained prior to the funding application and would check this out. FES permission had already been requested and was now awaited. Any trees in the path's way would need to be marked and FES permission sort for felling. Pesticide spraying training already covered in 7) above.

- 10) Final total of donations received for the 'Contemplation Shelter' in Cormonachan Woodlands in memory of Liz Evans and project costs. An update.

Final donations received for the Contemplation Shelter came to £7,050.00. Cost of shelter, groundwork, printed panels, 2 benches and ironmongery came to £7,041.40, leaving a credit balance of £8.60. The shelter will be erected on Monday 21st May 2018.

- 11) Assessment of the events with The Walking Theatre Company's visit to Cormonachan Woodlands with their two performances on 15th April 2018, ('The Celtic Tree Walk' and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream').

The weather was not kind on the day however about 20 people turned up for the afternoon event and about a dozen for the evening event including our CWA marshals. The events were excellent but not for the organisers Argyll Arts Collective as too few people attended caused by heavy rain prior to the evening event. DK asked if it would be worth having such an event again in CW and the four committee members who attended said the performances were excellent and would recommend doing another again with better publicity.

- 12) Plan date for the Official Opening of the Red Squirrel Hide and the 'Contemplation Shelter' subject to completion of the projects, with the shelter's erection booked for 21st May 2018 as LL&TNPA, FCS/FES, FOLLAT and many others would like to attend.

The official opening of the Red Squirrel Hide and the Contemplation Shelter will be on 6th June 2018 at 11 am that will be open to anyone to attend. There will be a reception afterwards for 20 invited guests at the Lodge on Loch Goil who are sponsoring this event at 1 pm for the main project supporters from the National Park,

Forestry Commission Scotland, Forest Enterprise Scotland, Friends of Loch Lomond & Trossachs and other large donors.

13) Any other business & date for next committee meeting?

The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th July 2018 at 16.30 hrs at Cruach House, Carrick Castle.

The meeting closed at 6.35 pm.