



Cormonachan Woodlands

Cormonachan Woodlands Association
The Secretary, Douglas Locke,
Cruach House, Carrick Castle, Argyll, PA24 8AF
T: 01301 703098 M: 07748 130976 F: 01301 703098
E: Secretary@cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk
W: www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk

Minutes

A Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 30th January 2018 at 4.00 pm at Cruach House, Carrick Castle, Argyll, PA24 8AF

1) **Welcome & Apologies.**

Those attending: David Thorpe (DT), Don Kamsley (DK), Frances Walker (FW) and Douglas Locke (DL). Also in attendance: Sue Morris (SM), Forest Enterprise Scotland and Pete Clarke (PC), Lochgoil Community Trust. Apologies were received from Jimmy Sim (JS).

2) **Approval of the Minutes of the last Committee Meeting held on 31st October 2017 & follow up reports (see italic notations in the last Minutes).**

Proposer: DK Secunder: FW Signed: DL

3) **A Tribute to our late Chair, Liz Evans who died on New Year's Eve 2017**

DL gave a short tribute about Liz Evans saying that it was Liz's drive and inspiration over the last twenty years that Ardroy's staff & visiting children and the Association's members and local people have been able to enjoy the use of Cormonachan Woodlands for education, recreation and conservation. Without Liz, there would never have been the paths, Jan's Hideaway, the new car park, Red Squirrel Hide and all the current facilities. The proposed Contemplation Shelter will be a fitting memorial to her passionate and dedicated work in the woodlands. This was agreed by all.

4) Appointment of a new Chair for the Committee and the need to co-opt another member on to the Committee.

DK agreed to be the Acting Chairman and a current member was agreed by the committee to be asked to be co-opted on to the committee. The member's name will be released after the next committee meeting in March.

At this point item 17) on the agenda was brought forward so that PC could leave prior to the main content of the meeting:-

A talk by Pete Clarke, representing the Loch Goil Community Trust, on the possibility of Land Asset Transfer concerning the possible purchase of the woodlands area of Cormonachan Woodlands (58.9 ha) and the forest area from Cormonachan Burn to Carrick Castle village. The Cormonachan Woodlands Association would then manage this whole area.

PC gave a talk that lasted about 45 minutes on the plans of the Lochgoil Community Trust. The members asked a number of questions about the advantages and disadvantages and in the end it was decided that the committee members would discuss the pros and cons of the plans at the next committee meeting and give the decision in favour or against after a thorough discussion to PC. PC advised that the Trust had agreed to approve the CWA's application for a grant to have 12 new information signs on posts erected in the woodlands with a grant and cost of £250.00.

5) Report on bank account position. The requirement to have another signatory for the bank account.

As JS was away on holiday, we did not have an updated bank balance to advise the committee. However, DL was able to show a print out of the summary accounts he keeps and the bank balance showed a balance of £4,238.48 that included the donations received in the bank for the Contemplation Shelter in memory of Liz Evans (LE) at £2,565.40. JS & DL suggested signatory replacement for LE as DK and DK agreed. JS had requested the transfer form from the bank prior to going away on holiday.

6) Secretary's report including update on current membership, an update on the website and its replacement, Facebook update and latest 'Members Update'. Also, AWOO Meeting 27/02/2018 & Argyll Holidays video.

DL reported that the current membership was now 77. The new website was now live and updated and Smart phone friendly. Facebook was updated. Members Updates were currently up to No. 24 with No. 25 following in February. AWOO (FCS - A Wood of Our Own) will be attended by DL and FW on 27th February 2018 in

Lochgilphead. DL advised we are still awaiting a copy of the video on walking the Squirrel Trail in Cormonachan Woodlands from Argyll Holidays. The other CWA (Community Woodlands Association) are currently looking for a venue for their two-day conference in October and DL has suggested to Argyll Holidays that they may be able to host this in their new facilities with Cormonachan Woodlands being the site visit.

- 7) Change of insurance contacts from The Highland Council to Zurich Insurance plc direct although Zurich Insurance plc remain the CWA's insurers. Review of the insurance.

The current insurance with Zurich will continue as it is a very good deal costing £143.00 pa from 1st April 2018.

- 8) Ardroy Report on work carried out in November, December & January in Cormonachan Woodlands (Rhododendron clearance by instructors and primary school children in Area 6 as marked out.

DT reported that in the last three months 360 primary school children from 12 schools had visited Cormonachan Woodlands and cut down 50 Rhododendron ponticum bushes in Area 6 within 24 hours of working time. This work will continue for the first three months of this year. Questions were asked about spraying the small rhoddies. With the loss of LE as a trained sprayer, there are now only Simon Garnett (Ardroy) and Tom Ducat (CWA) as sprayers with DL as a pesticide handler only. Therefore CWA needs to have a training course in 2018 with some volunteers offering to be trained. DT said that Jan's Hideaway would be re-painted in the spring.

- 9) Risk Assessments - Continuing the discussions and agreements regarding the revised and reformatted RAs.

DK advised that DT, FW and DK had had a risk assessment meeting in the autumn and a further meeting was planned on 20th February 2018 to complete the nine RAs on file. SM said that FES still had to review and comment back to CWA on the RAs submitted to them.

- 10) Report on Volunteers Days of 11th/12th and 18th November 2017.

Volunteers Days: 11th/12th November - 20 Sitka spruce trees felled by Fife Volunteers in Area 1 - thanks went out to them for this work. Volunteers Day: 18th November - Red Squirrel Hide area cleared by 3 members and ditch survey prepared by 2 CWA volunteers.

11) Update on CW Annual Maintenance Plan to 31st March 2018.

SM and DL agreed to complete this prior to the next committee meeting in March for 2018/2019 based on 2017/2018.

12) Update on Funding Applications to LL&TNPA (Red Squirrel Hide) & FOLLAT (Hire of Excavator for Ditch Cleaning) and other funding requirements (replacement website) followed by current situation for each of these items.

All funding for projects requested has been agreed. Hide & Shed erection expected w/c 12/02/2018 with grant from LL& T NPA of £1,440.14 and member's contribution of £250 plus Red Squirrel Hide Project Fund donations & ditch cleaning, path scrapping at Clach Bhadach and Hide & Shed site levelling being done between 29/01 to 02/02/2018 funded with grant of £500 from Friends of Loch Lomond & Trossachs, £250 from a member and £500 in-kind with use of excavator for extra two days from Drimsynie Construction. New website live, funded by £100 from Argyll Holidays, £100 from Carrick Castle Community Trust, £150 from The Wee Goil and £100 each from two members and the balance of the £750 cost from CWA funds. FCS approved grant of £410 for the Sit Astride ATV & Trailer training for two members in December. Lochgoil Community Trust approved grant of £250 for 12 small information signs around the woodlands.

13) Dates for monthly Volunteers Days from March to May 2018? February Volunteers Weekend has been set as 24th & 25th February 2018 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs daily as Fife Volunteers returning to fell remaining 19 trees in CWA licence in area 1. CWA member volunteers tasks and LL&TNPA volunteers tasks to be agreed.

February: Saturday 24th - 10.00 to 16.00 hrs
& Sunday 25th - 10.00 to 16.00 hrs

Tasks: Rhododendron cutting with LL&TNPA Volunteers; fungal coating and painting of hide and shed & burning of old shed by CWA volunteers. Felling of 19 trees will be done by Fife volunteers.

March: Saturday 10th - 10.00 to 13.00 hrs

April: Sunday 8th - 13.00 to 16.00 hrs
& Saturday 14th - 10.00 to 13.00 hrs

May: Sunday 6th - 13.00 to 16.00 hrs

- 14) Donations received to date for a 'Contemplation Shelter' in Cormonachan Woodlands in memory of Liz Evans, our past Chair and inspirational leader.

Donations received or promised to 22/01/2018 were £3,465. Other donations made directly to the bank after this date will not be known until JS return from holiday towards end of February. Up to date, further donations have been coming in with more promises totalling about £5,500 with a further £500 grant to come from FCS giving the project about £6,000. The project was discussed in considerable detail and in the end it was a unanimous decision by the committee that having sufficient funds the CWA would purchase the 3.9m octagonal Arno P Pavilion at a delivered and erected price of £3,799 as the Contemplation Shelter in memory of Liz Evans - see attachments. A 4m 100mm concrete base and paths to it would be constructed by Drimsynie Construction and signage would be provided within the approximate remaining £2,200 balance of funds. There would be tributes to Liz Evans within the shelter which will be a legacy to her 20 years of establishing the woodlands, constructing the paths and buildings whilst at Ardroy and the CWA.

- 15) Discussion about the implications of the loss of Liz Evans to the Association and changes that may have to be made to the Constitution. See copy of CWA Constitution attached.

Six year retirement rule to be reconsidered at next AGM - DT suggested amendments that will be discussed at the next committee meeting and then put before the members at the next AGM.

- 16) Update on possible event with 'The Walking Theatre' visit to Cormonachan Woodlands in April 2018.

Whilst an update was not known at the meeting, there will be a follow up in the next Members Update No. 25 in February.

- 17) A talk by Pete Clarke - see above.

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

There was no other business. The next committee meeting will be on Tuesday 6th March 2018 at 4.30 pm at Cruach House, Carrick Castle.

The meeting closed at 18.30 hrs.