



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 was held on Tuesday, 30th July 2019
at 4.30 pm at Cruach House, Carrick Castle

1) Welcome & Apologies.

The Chair (DK) welcomed everyone to the meeting. The committee members in attendance were Don Kamsley (DK), Douglas Locke (DL), Jimmy Sim (JS), Frances Walker (FW) and Dennis Bolt (DB). Apologies were received from Cecilia Ferguson (CF).

2) Approval of the Minutes of the last Committee Meeting held on 29th May 2019.

The Minutes of the last meeting on 29th May 2019 were approved - proposed by JS & seconded by FW and signed by DK.

3) Chairman's Report including summary of AGM event on 29th May 2019 and a welcome to our new committee member, Dennis Bolt, our new Membership Secretary.

DK said that he wanted to officially welcome Dennis Bolt to the committee as the Membership Secretary that had been agreed at the AGM. He said that the AGM had been poorly attended and we would need to try and get more members interested in attending the next AGM in 2020. The most important progress that has been made since the last committee meeting and the AGM is that the CWA now has planning permission with conditions for the Upper Cormonachan Paths Project (UCPP) granted on 11th July 2019 and

that now the Secretary was applying for its funding.

4) **Treasurer's Report.**

JS advised the bank balance was currently £3,258.40 with one payment outstanding of £34.18 giving a balance of £3,224.22.

5) **Secretary's Report including donations received to date for the "Upper Cormonachan Paths Project Fund" and donations received in the Red Squirrel Hide.**

DL said the UCPP Fund had reached £3,713.13, the Red Squirrel Hide's donation box now totalled £203.67 since March 2018 and that £160.81 had been spent on 112.5 kg of peanuts to date leaving a balance in hand of £42.86.

DL said that the success of obtaining planning approval with conditions was the most important step forward for the UCPP. This committee meeting had been delayed until this had been forthcoming and that all members had been advised by e-mail of this planning approval with detailed link.

DL then went on to explain the funding and that a grant application had been submitted to the National Park Grant Scheme for £5,425.20, for the cost of the Archaeology Survey (£4,165.20) and Interpretation panel & lectern (£1,260.00) for the old village as is required by WoSAS and LL&TNPA. This application has been submitted to the NPA and we hope to have a decision by the end of August 2019.

The main funding of the path project we are now looking for is £323,484 and the current total for the whole project is £330,090.20. The difference of £6,606.20 is the cost of the archaeology survey & signage (£5,425.20 under a separate funding package) and £1,181 already paid out of the UCPP fund for planning permission charges and a Protected Species Survey required by the LL&TNPA.

DL listed the funding applications that have so far been made by agreement with the funders and those that are being made or will be made:-

EB Scotland Ltd - £323,484 - Grant application submitted.

Heritage Fund - £323,484 - Expression of Interest completed.

LandTrust - £20,000 - Expression of Interest being completed.

Visit Scotland - £323,484 - Application to be made via LL&TNPA. SRDP now the Agri Environment Climate Scheme run by the Scottish Government - £323,484 - however the new scheme hasn't opened yet for 2019/2020 but will be applied for when next open. This scheme is normally open to registered woodland operators and the CWA is registered (250873).

DL advised that there are many funds available and the CWA will pursue all that are available or try to group a number together to reach the required funding required. He pointed out that each funding application takes many hours of work as the requirements are very detailed. For example the EB Scotland paperwork weighed half a kilo and the NPA one weighed one kilo.

Other funding - An application had been made to the Coop for £250 worth of signage - voting on that will commence in September 2019. The Woodland Trust has agreed to supply the CWA with 105 oaks and other deciduous trees in November 2019 for our volunteers to plant away from the new paths. These are a requirement to satisfy one of the conditions in the planning approval as we have to fell 84 Sitka spruce and 8 Larch trees along the planned new paths. The Loving Trees in Cormonachan Woodlands on the path up to the Contemplation Shelter with our late chair, Liz Evans shown between them has been submitted to the Tree of the Year 2019 in Scotland and will be voted on from September 2019. Prize £1,000 if it wins. There will be a Squirrel Survey in Scotland between 23rd and 29th September 2019.

The results of the short CWA Supporter/Volunteer Survey received about a 50% response. Although the committee said this was a high response to a survey, we could have done with more of our volunteers completing the survey. The results have yet to be analysed but we note some very useful information coming out of it that will be reported in due course.

6) Membership Secretary's Report. Update on membership.

DB said the CWA now had 112 members: 78 Full; 21 Associates; 4 Corporate; 2 Associate Corporate; 5 Life & 2 Child (free). 6 full and 2 associate members joined at the Carrick Castle Fayre and 6 others said they would join after the event but haven't to date.

7) Ardroy Report on use of Cormonachan Woodlands for the year ahead and tasks for 2019/2020.

DT was not in attendance so this will be carried forward to the next committee meeting to discuss the way forward.

8) Volunteers Leader position to be filled.

DK said the position of Volunteers Leader is vacant that will have a place on the committee. The job description was explained at the AGM and the written version can be seen on the 'Volunteering' page on the Association's website [(2) Volunteering on the Committee - link to Volunteers Leader Job Description]. DL said he would help anyone take over this position and there was a possible member interested.

9) Strimming the paths update.

FW had spent 2 1/2 hrs and DK 2 3/4 hrs strimming the paths in July. The other five certificated strimmer volunteer members had been asked several times to help but so far only Anna Wynne has promised to help out on her return from holiday at the beginning of August. It was hoped the other four will try and commit to helping out as soon as possible. DB suggested he would use 'Doodle' to help see if a suitable day could be arranged for the strimmers to trim the paths together.

DL said he was looking into the option of using a 4WD ride on professional mower as a possible long term solution with funding for a machine that would cost about £5,500 plus a storage shed. The committee were generally not in favour of this but it should be looked into. It may be possible to get funding to increase the number of strimmers up from seven by another four, the minimum to run another course.

10) Next Volunteers Days for Pesticide Spraying to be agreed with two weeks notice to be given to Forestry & Land Scotland.

DK asked the Secretary to book Pesticide Spraying of the Rhododendron in CW for the last two weeks in September between 16th and 29th as the CWA has to give a minimum of 2 weeks notice for such spraying to Forestry & Land Scotland. It was felt that it would only take a morning or an afternoon to do with the six certificated sprayers but it is highly weather sensitive.

11) Volunteers Days to be set for September, October & November 2019.

Volunteers Days to re-commence in September and continue through to the end of November 2019:-

Friday 27th September 10 am to 4 pm
Saturday 28th September 10 am to 4 pm

Friday 25th October 10 am to 4 pm
Saturday 26th October 10 am to 4 pm

Friday 22nd November 10 am to 4 pm
Saturday 23rd November 10 am to 4 pm
Sunday 24th November 10 am to 4 pm

and then start again in February 2020 to June 2020.

DL advised that a Police Youth Group of 15 had booked to volunteer in CW on 26th October clearing the ditches through the NPA volunteers scheme and that the Fife Conservation Group would be returning to fell the trees along the new paths route on 23rd & 24th November and again in February 2020. The CWA would be asking its chainsaw volunteer members to fell the smaller trees along the same route over the autumn/winter period.

12) Priority tasks for Volunteers Days for the autumn.

The priority tasks for the volunteers days ahead will be Rhododendron ponticum (cutting & burning); the maintenance tasks on the linked lists shown on the Volunteering website page; painting the floor of the Contemplation Shelter and painting the Red Squirrel Hide and shed before winter.

13) First Aid Training - An Update.

The CWA has two 'free' 2-day Emergency First Aid at Work +F training courses available for members coming up that have been funded by Forestry Scotland (£450 for each course):-

1) Monday 16th & Friday 20th September 2019 at Ardroy OEC, Lochgoilhead 7 places booked – 5 more places available.

2) Monday 2nd & Friday 6th December 2019 at Ardroy OEC, Lochgoilhead – 4 places booked – 8 more places available.

DL said that members who had not already booked a place and would like this training should contact the Secretary as soon as possible.

14) Review of Carrick Fayre event on 14th July 2019.

DL & DB said the event went off well in great weather with eight new members joining. Quite a few current members attended and there was sufficient help in erecting the marquee and its disassembly after the event.

15) Loch Goil Gala Day - 3rd August - marquee erection, setting up stand, theme, manning the stand, disassembly after the event.

DL & DB agreed to set up the marquee at 10 am with help from JS & DK and run the stand and FW would help in the afternoon. The theme would be the same as at the Carrick Fayre with CW mugs at £7.50 each for sale and FW offered 20 nicely presented photos of CW for sale at £5.00 each with the proceeds of all sales going towards the UCPP Fund. The CWA wish to further increase its membership and obtain donations towards the UCPP Fund.

16) Update on the 'Upper Cormonachan Paths Project' and an update on the Planning and Grant Applications.

With the LL&TNPA Planning Approval received and the first grants applied for, this was mainly covered in the Secretary's report.

17) Discuss why so few members use our fund raising site:- www.goraise.co.uk/cormonachan-woodlands-association ? (Out of 104 members, currently only 3 committee members, 2 associate members, 1 deceased member and 2 non-members have helped raise only £158.26 to date. Only 16 other members or people have looked at the site).

This was discussed and it was felt that members were not downloading the automatic system whereby you are advised if the business you wish to purchase something from is contributor of a commission to the CWA or not. So here is what you do...

Click on this link to register as a first time user:-

<https://www.goraise.co.uk/cormonachan-woodlands-association/?refid=3950>

and then when registered add the 'Donation Reminder'

<https://www.goraise.co.uk/donation-reminder/>.

After doing this every time you go to buy something online, if the supplier is a donation contributor and there are over 3,000 online businesses in the scheme, you will be asked if you wish to Activate Donation or not and it tells you the donation rate (eBay is 0.75%, Booking.com 5%, etc.). Further, if you use the above registration link here, once you have accrued £2.00 in donations to the CWA, the CWA will also receive a further £2.00 in a donation from GoRaise. As mentioned in the Members Updates, the CWA has no idea what you buy and you do not get e-mails as a result but the CWA does increase the donations it needs for the UCPP Fund.

18) Any other business?

There was no other business.

19) Date for next committee meeting?

The date for the next CWA Committee Meeting will be on Tuesday 10th September at 4.30 pm at Cruach House, Carrick Castle.

(The meeting closed at 18.45 hrs)