

Minutes of the inaugural meeting of the Cormonachan Woodlands Association held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014 at Cruach House, Carrick Castle at 10.30 am

In Attendance: Liz Evans, Jimmy Sim & Douglas Locke

The purpose of the meeting was to compile a list of potentially interested parties with regard to support in all its forms in setting up the “Cormonachan Woodlands Association” with the aim of the woodlands being available for use by the local community and managed by this new association with a formal agreement from the Forestry Commission Scotland.

### History

The Cormonachan Woodlands are Atlantic oak woods being preserved for Education, Conservation and Recreation.

The 20-hectare wooded area on the west shore of Loch Goil, between Lochgoilhead and Carrick Castle, Argyll is a joint woodland project that was started in 1997, with co-operation between Lochgoil Community Trust, Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre, Lochgoil Primary School and Forest Enterprise.

The woodlands are currently used for educational purposes by Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre’s school and youth groups and by Lochgoil Primary School for projects. There are two walks for use by the local community.

Conservation of the woodlands has been ongoing year by year with adult volunteers and school groups undertaking the majority of the work required to reclaim, preserve and maintain the ecology of the woodlands for future generations.

The woodlands paths that have been made are now ideal for recreation. Walking along the paths can now be a year-round activity to help local people and visitors to the area keep fit. ‘Green Gym’ is the current word for exercising outside that can be done in tranquil and beautiful surroundings.

Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre in Lochgoilhead managed Cormonachan Woodlands for the project members until 2011. Fife Council initially leased before selling the centre to Ardroy OEC - AOEC Trust Limited a Company Limited by Guarantee, SC405625 & Charity No SC0425921A in 2011. There has since been no formal agreement with the Forestry Commission Scotland although the woodlands are still used by Ardroy and they still own Jan’s Hut located within the woodlands.

### Contacts:

The following contacts discussed have been listed for follow up by Liz Evans (LE) and Jimmy Sim (SM): -

- 1) Community Woodlands – Diana Oliver – LE
- 2) Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park – JS
- 3) Drimsynie Estate – Marketing Department – JS
- 4) Loch Goil Community Trust Ltd. – Tom Murray – JS
- 5) Carrick Castle Community Trust Ltd. – Jean Murray – JS
- 6) Forestry Commission Scotland – JS
- 7) Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre – LE

- 8) Argyll & Bute Council – Biodiversity – JS
- 9) Woodland Trust – LE
- 10) Green Wood Workers – LE
- 11) Wild Life Trust – JS
- 12) N Trust – Car park project – JS
- 13) Dallas Seawright – Fife Community Trust – LE
- 14) The Scout Centre – JS

Other Contacts: -

- 1) Lochgoilhead Primary School with regard to using the woodlands for educational purposes.
- 2) Len Gow website to check on his walking booklet to see if Cormonachan Woodlands walks have been included.  
([http://issuu.com/chapter2design/docs/walking-preview\\_29march?e=3501426/7287246](http://issuu.com/chapter2design/docs/walking-preview_29march?e=3501426/7287246) ).
- 3) Carrick Castle Boat Club that includes the Cormonachan Woodlands walks amongst others on their website.
- 4) The Wee Goil for publicising the Cormonachan Woodlands Association and requesting volunteers to help manage the woodlands.

Individuals who may be interested in this project

- 1) Liz Evans, Jimmy Sim, Douglas Locke, Ian Prescott & others?
- 2) Staff at Ardroy OEC, staff at the Scouts Centre, Lochgoilhead Primary School staff & pupils, the communities of Carrick Castle & Lochgoilhead.

Important matters affecting the Cormonachan Woodlands

- 1) A lease to manage the Cormonachan Woodlands from the Forestry Commission Scotland at no cost to the Association.
- 2) An Agreement from AOEC Trust Ltd. for the Association to be allowed to use Jan's Hut.
- 3) An Agreement with AOEC Trust Ltd. for the Association to update the Cormonachan Woodlands website – [www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk](http://www.cormonachan-woodlands.co.uk) as it has not been updated since 2009.
- 4) A car park project for the walks in Cormonachan Woodlands.
- 5) Funding for the Cormonachan Woodlands Association.

The Way Forward

It was agreed at the meeting that the steering group who attended this meeting would first make initial contact with those listed above by telephone and then if they were interested they would be sent an e-mail with further details about the Cormonachan Woodlands Association's plans and projects for the woodlands and the community.