



Cormonachan Woodlands Association
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Minutes

A Committee Meeting was held on Monday 4th July 2016 at 4.30 pm at Cruach House, Carrick Castle, Argyll, PA24 8AF

- 1) Liz Evans (LE) welcomed the committee members, Douglas Locke (DL), Rowan Fraser (RF), Sheron Hambly (SH), Simon Garnett (SG) & Jimmy Sim (JS).
- 2) Approval of the Minutes of the last Committee Meeting held on 16th May 2016 were approved and proposed by JS & seconded by SH and signed by the Chair.
- 3) Chair's Report - LE advised a lot was currently going on again and is covered under various headings that follow. LE advised that six volunteers (LE, DL, RF, Don & Loraine Kamsley & Tuk) attended the Volunteers Day on 29th May and cleared the Squirrel Trail path and path between the 2.5km walk and the south entrance to the rhoddies tunnel on the old drovers track and cut down bracken alongside the paths and car park area. (SG at a later date erected a way marker post to "Walks at CW" at the forest road above CW); Community Services cleared more mud off the old drovers track and put gravel down between Lochwood entrance up to the south end of the rhoddies tunnel and dug a ditch across the path under the power lines. They came on 25th May and returned again on 23rd June making the path much better for walking on. They will return yet again to clear more rhoddies from the Lochwood entrance to improve the sight lines to the entrance on the road; SH was thanked for adding the Open Day article in The Wee Gail; it was decided to hold the 2017 AGM in the village hall; everyone was thanked for their contributions at the Open Day that raised awareness of CW and launched the "Car Park Fund"; LE & DL attended the Wild Park 2020 event at the LL&TNP in Balloch and found the networking very useful to CWA including meeting Jan

Ferguson regarding red squirrels. LE & DL have had two meetings with FCS regarding the Memorandum of Understanding on 22nd June and a possible dangerous tree survey at CW on 4th July - see item 6).

- 4) Treasurer's Report - RF said the bank balance was £603.65 with cash in hand of £12.82, totalling £616.47. Two insurance payments had been paid last month and £30.00 would be deducted from this amount for the renewal of the CWA membership to Community Woodlands Association, now due for 2016.
- 5) Secretary's Report - DL reported that he was keeping the website and Facebook up to date. He advised that 10 new members had joined since 1st June 2016 and 25 members had rejoined CWA from last year and that there were now 35 CWA members and that 29 were Full Members, 3 were Associate Members, 1 was a Young Person Member, 1 was a Child Members (free) and there was 1 Corporate Member. 11 members including 3 free have not renewed their membership to date. There were 36 members in 2015 including 3 free child members providing an income of £350.00 and currently there are 35 members in 2016 including 1 free child member providing an income of £360.00. The eleventh Members' Update was sent out to members by e-mail on 5th June 2016. DL advised the committee that FOLLAT (Friends of Loch Lomond) had agreed a grant of £100.00 towards the cost of the way marker discs but no payment had yet been received. DL paid £128.00 for the discs and offered to donate the money for the 30 discs if no grant was received. A couple of Mission Statement suggestions had been received so far but this would need to be addressed again at the next meeting. (*Action DL*)
- 6) Report on the CWA management agreement with FCS. LE & DL gave a report on their meeting with David Robertson (DR) of FCS that was held on 22nd June and followed up on 4th July prior to the committee meeting. FCS sent the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to the association by e-mail and this was immediately sent out on 7th June to all committee members and AOEC Trust Trustees (Ardroy) for replies by 16th June. There were no major comments returned. However, at the meeting with DR and LE & DL, FCS wanted CWA & Ardroy to have full responsibility for the costs of tree felling. It was explained to DR that CWA did not have the money for such contingencies and if this were to be the case this would be a game changing moment as to the way forward with CWA managing CW. DR later telephoned to offer a 50/50 arrangement which CWA would then put to the committee. It was decided that in the interest of FCS, CWA & Ardroy that a possible dangerous tree survey would have to be carried out and this was done in the morning prior to this committee meeting. DR, LE & DL surveyed the trees around the CW paths and it was noted that 6 trees would have to be felled, 4 trees to have some limbs removed

and 1 tree checked for bats prior to limb removal. FCS would pay for this work to be done so that possible dangerous trees would be made safe prior to CWA and Ardroy signing the MoU. Those trees marked with an "X" or "L" to be attended to would have their GPS locations checked by LE & DL and e-mailed to DR for his team to carry out the work starting next week. There were a few alterations to be made to the MoU regarding adding a volunteer paragraph and volunteer policy; felling of dangerous trees to be added with joint responsibility for the future; tree safety inspections to be carried out jointly; removal of Japanese Knotweed to be the responsibility of FCS; the bracketed items in hand tool weeding to be removed; PL insurance amount to be corrected from £500,000 to £5M and the partners to be known as Cormonachan Woodlands Association referred to as CWA and AOEC Trust Ltd. to be referred to as Ardroy with typo/errors amended. FCS to also supply list of FCS approved contractors. The MoU should be ready of signing in August 2016.

(Action DR of FCS, LE, DL)

- 7) Car park development - DL advised that LL&TNP planning permission approval is due by 22nd July 2016. FOLLAT had advised that CWA may be able to get a £500 grant towards the proposed car park in September or October 2016. Members donations and money received from the Open Day event have totalled £360 so far. A PayPal "Donate" button has been added to the CWA website cross referenced from the CWA Facebook page. Other sources of funding will be approached once we have planning permission. There is still the issue of Loch Goil Community Trust's outstanding debt of £690.00 with Drimsynie's solicitors that remains a problem as work cannot proceed until their debt is paid. *(Action LE, JS, SH & DL)*
- 8) The CWA Annual Maintenance Plan for the year ahead to 31st March 2017 was time-tabled. See item 11) for future volunteer dates. RF will contact LL&TNP to see if CWA can have a partner's agreement in order to have LL volunteers help at CW. *(Action LE, DL, SG & RF)*
- 9) The sub-group of LE, RF & SG will arrange a meeting with regard to a survey of CW including the hazel & lichens in the autumn once the midges and bracken have reduced or finished for the year. *(Action LE, RF & SG)*
- 10) Loch Goil Gala Day on Saturday 30th July 2016 from 12.30 to 16.00 hrs. Depending on the weather it will be held in the field as last year or car park if the field is waterlogged. CWA will have a stand using its 6m x 3m marquee as at the CWA Open Day. Erection either the night before or in the morning starting at 10.30 hrs to set up the displays. There will be a Treasure Hunt Competition, the same as last year with similar prizes. There will be a wood working demonstration (RF). There will also be limited items for sale with biscuits and drinks to go towards the "Car Park Fund". The event will be looking to show why CW needs a good car park for

visitors and will be asking for donations towards it. (*Action SH, LE, RF, SG, JS & DL*).

- 11) Volunteer Days: 1) Thursday 14th July 2016 at 2pm - SG to survey and cut Sitka spruce to become a totem pole; 2) Friday 15th July 2016 from 10 am to 1 pm - CW path clearance with strimmer (RG) and scythes and pruners; 3) Saturday 30th July 2016 from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm in slots - volunteers to man the stand; 4) Saturday 24th September 2016 from 10 am to 1 pm - various maintenance in CW. Fife Volunteers to be contacted to see when they may come back again. (*Action LE*)
- 12) FCS Community Grant - LE to put together an application for various training funding. (*Action LE*)
- 13) CWA Risk Assessments for Volunteers Days to be prepared by RF. (*Action RF*)
- 14) Suggestions for a sculptures theme in Cormonachan Woodlands - Some suggestions have been made - carbon cycle; fairy stories; mythology; diversity; Celtic; Scottish history; animals; squirrels, etc. This will need to be finalised at the next meeting. At the top of the south west corner of the Squirrel Trail a large Sitka spruce will be turned into a Totem Pole - this has been planned in item 11) above and will initially be a bare pole. SG also advised at a previous meeting that he would repair the 'Spider's Web' at the top of the path junction above Jan's Hideway. Volunteers are willing to assist him. DL also suggested that he could turn the stones/rocks in the old collapsed stone wall in the fir tree area into a stone sculpture with some help removing them first. (*Action SG & DL*)
- 15) The next Committee Meeting will be on Tuesday 20th September 2016 at 16.30 hrs at Cruach House, Carrick Castle.

The meeting closed at 18.30 hrs.