



Cormonachan Woodlands Association
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Minutes

A Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday, 9th February 2016 at 4.30 pm at Cruach House, Carrick Castle, Argyll, PA24 8AF

- 1) Liz Evans (LE) welcomed the committee members, Douglas Locke (DL) and Rowan Fraser (RF). Sheron Hambly (SH) was invited to attend the meeting with an offer to be co-opted on to the committee. David Robertson (DR), of Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS), was present as a visitor and Jenny Allen from Ardroy took the place of Simon Garnett who was unable to attend. Apologies were received from Jimmy Sim (JS) and Simon Garnett (SG).
- 2) Approval of the Minutes of the last Committee Meeting held on 26th November 2015 were approved and proposed by LE & seconded by RF and signed. The follow ups to the last meeting were DL advising that the Rural Development Fund would be suitable for Woodland Improvement Grants that is worked out on a per hectare basis. DR advised current area of 20 ha may rise to 40 ha. There is considerable detailed paperwork involved that may not make this a viable source of funding for CWA. LE said that training had been discussed with RF & Kevin (Ardroy) and was to be followed up with possible dates of 16-17/04/2016. JS had e-mailed update on car park situation. Loch Goil Community Trust did not wish to pursue this anymore as apparently they owed Argyll Holidays (AH) for the legal costs (£800) and did not have the money to pay them. As a result CWA would have to start the car park project from scratch. DR suggested CWA approach the LL&T National Park Planning Department to ask what they felt about the project with a visit to the potential sites. DR & SH advised they attended a meeting (Loch Goil Community Council [LGCC]) on 8/2/2016 at which there was no mention of any grant applications included for CWA. JS had originally been advised that CWA would be

included. DL had been advised by JS that CWA was not to approach the Scottish Landfill Communities Fund direct but everything was to be done via LGCC. LE advised that SG had advised that Ardroy would supply nuts for the squirrels in CW monthly and CWA members would have to top up the feeders.

- 3) Chair's Report - LE advised that Marion McCune had had to resign from the committee due to pressure of her own business work but would remain a member. She had been thanked for her significant work and contributions to CWA over the last year. DR was thanked for attending the meeting to update the committee on the FCS Agreement. JA was thanked for standing in for SG at short notice to represent Ardroy. SH was also thanked for attending the meeting with a view to joining the committee. LE advised that there were currently 35 CWA members and that 27 were Full Members, 4 were Associate Members, 3 were Child Members (free) and there was 1 Corporate Member. The association had obtained further tools and equipment for volunteers use. (*Action LE*)
- 4) Treasurer's Report. RF advised that the bank balance was £899.25. A receipt was issued to DL for his Marley Legal Group Committee (MLG) making a donation of £413.00 to CWA. It was agreed at the last meeting that part of this money would go to purchasing a 3m x 6m foldaway marquee with weights so that CWA could attend events with its own marquee, the cost of which was £133.98. This purchase was made. Payments agreed at the meeting were for a CWA rubber stamp and Dymo tape for marking all the tools (£32.04) and since the association was in funds and LE & DL had spend £748.00 on tools, etc. against a 100% FCS Grant Offer, a £500.00 payment would be made to LE and the balance of the purchases order be paid on receipt of the funds from FCS.
- 5) Secretary's Report. DL reported that he was keeping the website and Facebook up to date. The seventh Members' Update would shortly be sent out to members by e-mail. The Minutes and Members Updates are viewable on the CW History page. DL would attend the next FCS 'A Wood of our Own' event at Dalmally on 8th March 2016. CWA has its own Public Liability Insurance (£10 M) and cover for equipment and tools, etc. to a value of £2,000.00, also Personal Accident cover for Committee Members and Volunteers. The Highland Council (through Zurich Municipal) set up the cover from 7/12/2015 at a cost of £13.91 pm. The policy is available for any member to view on request. DL confirmed the purchase of the 6m x 3m marquee for use at future events. This will also require a CWA outside long banner and CWA inside sign. It was agreed at the meeting that these could be purchased once the FCS grant payment has been received. DL also said that CWA could apply for a grant from LL&T NPA but it was too late for this year but will look into this for 2017. The Paths for All Community Paths Grant is now open and we can express our interest by 18th March with application by 29th

April 2016. DL suggested an interpretation sign be applied for to have at the entrance to the CW. DL to get quotation and draft design together. This grant is a match funding one and we are in a position to match fund (see last minutes item 12). (*Action DL*)

- 6) A report on grant funding for volunteers tools, etc. Following the first grant that had been successful with £905.04 worth of tools, etc. purchased, DL was able to report that the second application had been accepted by FCS and an offer for £748.00 more tools, etc. at 100% grant. After the first volunteers days it was realised that we did not have enough equipment, tools, etc. to cover the numbers of volunteers who turned up and certain items were lacking. As a result FCS agreed to let us apply for more tools, etc. and now CWA has a very good selection of tools available for volunteers to use. One of the conditions FCS put on the offer was that these tools, etc. must be well looked after and not disposed of for a period of five years. Volunteers are requested to return all tools, etc. after each volunteers day to the committee members looking after them. An Inventory of equipment and tools, etc. will be added to the CWA website for members to view.
- 7) Car park development - JS advised by e-mailed that he had chased up Elizabeth Bain (EB) secretary of LGCT for the plans and copy lease for the Cormonachan Woodlands car park yet again but no progress had been made as previously mentioned in the minutes follow up in 2) above. The committee decided that we would now have to see if a pre-plan could be organised with a site visit with LL&T NP Planning. Subject to this, then, depending on the most appropriate land position by the TV aerial (FCS to the left or AH to the right) we would have to obtain permissions, costs and available grants for the project. (*Action LE & DL*)
- 8) The Scottish Landfill Communities Fund administered by EB Scotland Ltd. is still a possible source of funding however we are unaware of what we can apply for or the amount we can apply for and even how we apply for it if not allowed to do it directly. Once FCS agreements are in place we would like to move this forward and JS would be the best person to follow this up getting the committee the answers it needs. (*Action JS*)
- 9) C W Management Plan - DR had come to the meeting hoping to bring the FCS Agreement to the committee for discussion however on sending the Agreement to the two FCS managers who would have to agree this, he had received positive comments from Gordon Archibald (GA) but a list of various comments from Craig Miller (CM), the Communities Development Manager required more information about Cormonachan Woodlands Association and CW's previous history. DR had made suggestions accordingly to CM and was now awaiting his response. Although DR had a copy of the FCS Agreement in draft form, he couldn't show this to us until the two

managers were happy with its content. DR was still working towards having the Agreement in place and signed by 1st April 2016.

- 10) C W Maintenance Plan for 2016 - A plan of what is to be achieved in 2016/7 will have to be worked out between Ardroy and CWA. This will have to be approved by FCS. (*Action LE & SG*)
- 11) Future Volunteers Days - Volunteers Days already published are on Sunday 21st February 2016 from 10.00 to 13.00 hrs. The plan was to finish clearing the path up by the Plantation area, clear ditches and finish work on the Plantation area. The following Volunteers Day is Saturday 19th March 2016 again from 10.00 to 13.00 hrs. We will need to have a person in CW attending with 1st Aid certificate and to do a safety talk. (*Action LE*)
- 12) We are planning an event on Sunday 12th June 2016 incorporating a training/display event and open Day, followed by a barbecue for lunch and ending with the first CWA AGM in the new marquee in CW - details to follow (*Action LE & DL*).
- 13) As FCS have no objection to CWA having natural sculptures in the woodlands CWA could have them made from stone, wood or in CW such as wood, stone or living plants, etc. DL will provide some suggestions and a plan to be put towards the committee.
- 14) Other business – SH was invited to be co-opted on to the CWA committee if she would like and she agreed to become a member of the committee. The CWA will have a stand at the Loch Goil Gala Day on Saturday 30th July 2016. It was also agreed that the CWA should have a stand at the Carrick Fayre but despite a few e-mails to the chair no response has been received about the date or whether we could have a stand. SH suggested CWA attend the Harvest Fayre again in September and this was agreed. LE said she would look into organising a 1st Aid Course for the members. The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 22nd March 2016 at the usual time of 4.30 pm. (*Action LE & DL*)
(*All items in italics for following up*).

The meeting closed at 18.25 hrs.