



Cormonachan Woodlands Association  
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## Minutes

A Committee Meeting was held on Monday 16th May 2016 at 4.30 pm at Cruach House, Carrick Castle, Argyll, PA24 8AF

- 1) Liz Evans (LE) welcomed the committee members, Douglas Locke (DL), Sheron Hambly (SH) & Jimmy Sim (JS). David Robertson (DR) (FCS) was in attendance. Rowan Fraser (RF) sent her apologies.
- 2) Approval of the Minutes of the last Committee Meeting held on 19th April 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. Matters arising from the last meeting - LE advised that four members (LE, DL, Simon Garnett & Cecilia Ferguson) attended the Volunteers Day on 24th April and successfully erected seven way marker posts in CW (2 more still to be erected for connection to forest road above CW), also cleared the rhoddies at the Lochwood entrance to CW and did some bracken bashing - thanks to all; Community Services were contacted via Iain MacInnes and they arranged for work to be done clearing the mud off the old drovers track starting at Lochwood entrance up to the power lines where the paths beyond to the TV aerial had been cleared several years ago. They came on 5th, 9th, 11th and 15th May and would return on 19th to try and finish making the path good for walking on; Mission Statement delayed again to next meeting; DL had obtained from FCS a map of the new proposed CW area (Item 6); Car park project moving forward covered in Item 7); CW survey still to be dealt with by LE, RF & SG; Maintenance plan has been part programmed for the year ahead (Item 8); Open Day & AGM details covered in Item 10.

- 4) Treasurer's Report - RF being ill was not in attendance. DL advised that to his knowledge there had been no outgoings other than insurance (£10.22 pm) since the last meeting so the bank balance would be around £587.08 however several members had renewed their memberships or newly joined for the coming year so this figure will have increased with prepayments for 1st June 2016. DL said that £202.00 will be required this week for the CW Car Park Planning Permission application to LL&TNP. (*Action RF*)
- 5) Secretary's Report - DL reported that he was keeping the website and Facebook up to date. He advised two new members had joined and 8 members had rejoined CWA prepaying before 1st June 2016 since the last meeting and that there were now 42 CWA members and that 32 were Full Members, 4 were Associate Members, 1 was a Young Person Member, 4 were Child Members (free) and there was 1 Corporate Member. In view of the closeness to renewal of membership date of 1st June, these new members will be for 2016/2017. The ninth Members' Update was sent out to members by e-mail on 27th April 2016. DL showed the committee a way marker post sign post for the Forest Road access to CW. DL also advised that the posts now had printed arrows and C W & walks on each post. A grant of £100.00 had been applied for from FOLLAT, a friends of Loch Lomond grant scheme but no advice had been received as to whether a grant would be given to date or not. DL offered to donate the money for the 30 discs that he paid for costing £128.00 if no grant was received.
- 6) David Roberson (FCS) was in attendance at the meeting and the enlarged plan for Cormonachan Woodlands, south to Cormonachan Burn and west to the forest road above Upper Cormonachan old village was shown to everyone. DR explained that the area preferred would come under the FCS Agreement with CWA but FCS Managers had yet to agree the final Agreement (being used as a template for other future woodlands project applications) and the area. A draft Agreement was still not available to CWA. It was agreed that CWA would be in a position to apply for grants to look after the historical interest of the old Upper Cormonachan village and paths to it whereas the FCS had no money for this project. There were water supplies to houses from this area as there are in the current CW area and these had to be considered by FCS. As FCS still owned the land, CWA did not see why this would be an issue as they would just be maintaining the woodlands. DR apologised for the delay in getting an Agreement completed but felt that this way, no solicitors would be involved which would save money. (*Action DR of FCS*)
- 7) Car park development - Thanks were given to Anna Wynne (AW) local architect and member who had very kindly offered to prepare the plans for the car park without charge and to DL for preparation of the draft plan. The plans are now ready for

submission to LL&TNP planning department and these will be submitted this week for planning permission now that the committee had approved them. Planning permission should take 6 to 8 weeks. JS & SH advised that Loch Goil Community Trust had agreed to sign the lease for the car park. The Trust's outstanding debt of £690.00 with Drimsynie's solicitors remains a problem as they do not have the money to pay this and work cannot proceed until the debt is paid. SH & JS advised that The Wee Goil may have been prepared to help out with this payment matter but some of their committee members were not in agreement with funding the Trust's debt and so no resolve has yet been made to this situation. We would now need to find funding for the car park that will cost £3,600 including VAT for the work to be done. Grant funding is now being sought for the car park and the committee are looking for donations towards this as well as grant funding as funders want to see some local monetary input too. *(Action LE, JS, SH & DL)*

- 8) The CWA Annual Maintenance Plan for the year ahead to 31st March 2017 has been drafted for work to be done and will be circulated to the committee members after the meeting. These items can be viewed on the website's History page - alongside Committee Minutes of 22nd March 2016. *(Action LE, SG & RF)*
- 9) The sub-group of LE, RF & SG is still to arrange a meeting with regard to a survey of CW including the hazel & lichens. *(Action LE, RF & SG)*
- 10) Open Day & AGM on Sunday 12th June 2016 from 10.00 to 16.00 hrs has received formal permission from FCS to go ahead. There will be three displays of craftwork between the big marquee in the proposed car park area and Jan's Hideaway - Rowan Fraser will be using the Pole Lathe, Simon Garnett, the Shaving Horse and Kevin Smith, Spoon Making. Displays about CW will be in the big marquee. Posters being displayed around the Loch Goil area (DL & SH). The AGM will be held in big Marquee at 12.30 (LE). The barbeque will at 13.30 in the borrowed CC Boat Club's marquee in the car park area (charges for burgers and drinks will be made with profits going towards the car park) (JS). There will be a Treasure Hunt on the Squirrel Trail after lunch (LE) followed by a Guided Walk (LE). There will also be an example of what goes on at a Volunteers Day with members & others being able to have a go at bracken bashing, pruning, etc. (RF, SG & KS). There will also be a feed back for visitors to complete (DL). LE to ask Ardroy for some donated food, drink & items to sell at the event to go towards funds for the car park. The event will be looking to show why CW needs a good car park for visitors and will be asking for donations towards it. Parking will have to be at the large lay by 1/3 mile beyond CW access towards Carrick Castle and the Police have been advised of the event. It was agreed that setting up the event would start at 08.30 hrs. *(Action SH, LE, RF, SG, JS & DL).*

- 11) Gala Day on Saturday 30th July 2016 to be planned at the next committee meeting. Space (6m x 3m) has been booked by SH. The site will either be in the field or car park in Lochgoilhead depending on the weather conditions.
- 12) Future Volunteers Days - the next will be on Sunday 29th May 2016 from 10 am to 1 pm that will involve path clearing, bracken bashing and more..., there will be more Volunteers Days again in September and October. The Fife Volunteers to be contacted to see when they may come back again (LE) and the Loch Lomond volunteers as they said they would be interested in helping out in CW (RF). (*Action LE & RF*)
- 13) FCS Community Grant - LE is putting together an application at the end of May/ early June 2016. (*Action LE*)
- 14) CWA Risk Assessments for Volunteers Days is being prepared by RF. (*Action RF*)
- 15) Sculptures in Cormonachan Woodlands - It was agreed that SG should be allowed to turn the large Sitka spruce tree marked with a 'T' at the south west corner of the Squirrel Trail into a Totem Pole as shown on the CWA Annual Management Agreement for 2016/2017. SG also advised 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 with the Totem Pole. (*Action SG*)
- 16) The next Committee Meeting will be on Monday 4th July 2016 at 16.30 hrs at Cruach House, Carrick Castle.
- 17) JS said he would contact Jan Ferguson and Marina Curran-Coulthart with regard to seeing if grants were available for red squirrel nuts and feeders for CW. (*Action JS*)
- 18) SH said she was unsure as to the duties of the Events Manager as these overlapped with those of the Secretary and Chair. LE said that publicity was the main duty but perhaps we should list officers duties. DL said that all the events equipment was stored at Cruach House as we had storage space.

The meeting closed at 18.30 hrs.