



Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd.
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Minutes

A Committee Meeting was held on Tuesday 18th August 2020 at 2 pm at Cruach House, Carrick Castle observing social distancing regulations

- 1) **Welcome & Apologies.**
In attendance: Don Kamsley, Chair; Jimmy Sim, Treasurer; Dennis Bolt, Membership Secretary and Douglas Locke, Secretary. Apologies were received from Frances Walker.
- 2) **Approval of the Minutes of the last Committee Meeting held on 14th February 2020.**
These minutes were approved - Proposer; Jimmy Sim, seconder; Dennis Bolt and signed by Don Kamsley.
- 3) **Chairman's Report including the Special General Meeting held on 9th March 2020.**
Don Kamsley explained that the Covid-19 Pandemic had delayed having committee meetings for the last 6 months however the committee had kept in touch by phone and e-mail throughout this period. Today's meeting with four committee meeting members was managed keeping to social distancing regulations. He explained that two further members' meetings are still required for the Cormonachan Woodlands Association's AGM and a Special General Meeting (SGM) is required for its dissolution. These are expected to be held in the Lochgoilhead village hall when it reopens sometime in September.

- 4) **Treasurer's Report including bank account changes.**
Jimmy Sim said it has taken months to sort out the Cooperative Banking arrangements. He is now awaiting the CWA balance to be moved to the CCW Ltd. account. The accounts stand at £12,050.42 (CWA) and £1,350.98 (CCW) = £13,371.40 with one cheque still to be cashed of £1,578.00 leaving £11,793.40 as the bank balance. Most of this money is restricted leaving working capital from subscriptions. As this has been the first meeting since the end of the CWA financial year, the accounts to 31st March 2020 were approved unanimously for presentation to the members at the next AGM whenever it can be held.
- 5) **Secretary's Report including an update on a Forestry and Land Scotland Lease for the Cormonachan Community Woodlands. Formation of a limited company by guarantee from 1st April 2020 to take over the Cormonachan Woodlands Association under a new name 'Cormonachan Community Woodlands Ltd.'** Preparation of the Memorandum of Association for the new company to incorporate the current CWA Constitution. Donations received to date for the "Upper Cormonachan Paths Project Fund" including 'Adopt a Tree' donations; donations received in the Red Squirrel Hide and update on the Coop Local Community Fund. Grant received for People Counter from Paths for All.
- Douglas Locke (DL) reported that the lease for Cormonachan Community Woodlands is being prepared by Forestry and Land Scotland's solicitors for a 20 year period less one day to avoid stamp duty. CCW Ltd took over the new financial year from CWA on 1st April 2020. The two set up members with Companies House were Douglas Locke as director & secretary and Jimmy Sim as treasurer. The other members of the committee now have to join the board as directors and this process will now be commenced. The Memorandum of Association will also be updated as necessary.
- DL advised that the Upper Cormonachan Paths Project Fund had now reached £15,034.48 that included the £4,000 offered by the Lochgoil Community Trust not yet received, leaving just £1,140.52 to find to reach the 5% (£16,175) of the construction costs to be able to access availability to large grants. The Co-op Local Community Fund total has reached £932.87 to date of which £787.61 was paid on account in April 2020. £256.60 was paid for signage and the balance of £531.01 was added to the UCPP Fund. The balance of the fund not yet received of £145.26, to date, will eventually go to the UCPP Fund. The Red Squirrel Fund has a credit balance of £85.47 with about 18 kg of nuts in stock.

75% of a £1,500 grant from Paths for All has been received for a people counter for the woodlands, the 25% balance will be received once the equipment has been installed in September. The Co-op Local Community Fund has asked the CCW if we would like to apply for another year of funding and DL has applied for the funding period October 2020 to October 2021 to raise further funds for the UCPP Fund. EasyFunding now has 6 CCW members using it and has raised £9.90 through Amazon & eBay in July. DL advised that a new National Park Grant Scheme is now open to 24th August 2020 and the committee asked to find out if £5k funding could be applied for Rhododendron ponticum clearance in the woodlands contracted out to a professional.

DL then updated the committee on other ongoing matters. The archaeology survey final report for the Settlement had been completed and submitted to WoSAS and the National Park. The report is shown on the website under reports. The interpretation board text was being prepared and the draft will be presented to the committee for approval prior to production. The funding is in place for this to go ahead. The Woodlands Trust have approved another request for a further 105 native trees to be planted within the Squirrel Trail boundaries. These are to replace the 44 Sitka spruce trees that were felled in that area over the last three years. The Forestry have agreed the CCW's pesticide arrangements for 2020 to 2021 and spraying the Rhododendron ponticum will go ahead in the autumn using our certified sprayers.

Membership Secretary's Report. Update on current membership and changes in new membership to a limited company by guarantee with all members having a £1 share liability for the future from 1st April 2020.

Dennis Bolt gave the membership details for the new CCW company as follows - 58 full members, 16 associate members, 2 corporate members, 2 associate corporate members and 6 life members, one of whom is a new life member - total 84 compared to 139 members last year. 9 have failed to provide membership forms and another 3 have not provided the subscribers memorandum. Total number of members who have completed forms who are therefore legal members and can vote are 72. It was pointed out that joining the new CCW limited company requires two forms to be completed - this is a once only requirement and next year members will be able to pay their annual subscriptions without any forms to fill in.

The CCW's income so far for this year is £1,110 to pay for all overheads, insurance, website hosting, stationery, fuel, PPE, servicing of equipment and maintenance. 16 members have indicated that they wish to volunteer.

- 6) **Ardroy Report on use of Cormonachan Woodlands for the year ahead and tasks for 2020/2021. Existing Agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) between CWA & Ardroy from 1st December 2016 to 30th November 2026 will need to updated with reference to CCW.**
Jimmy Sim, a director of AOEC Trust Ltd. commented on this item as he attended Ardroy's board meeting on 17th August. David Thorpe, Ardroy's centre manager, is currently no longer a committee member of CCW Ltd. as he has not joined as a member and Ardroy has not joined as a corporate member. This is as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic and the unknown future of the Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre. The Memorandum of Understanding between the CWA and Ardroy dated 1st December 2016 until 30th November 2026 will have to be replaced with a new agreement with CCW when Ardroy is in a position to join the company.
- 7) **Update on the 'Upper Cormonachan Paths Project' including Chainsaw operations work carried out by FLS at their cost of £950 for the 92 trees now felled along the new paths route and at the Settlement and on grant applications. Felled trees still to be cut up by FLS along the path route by FLS at their cost.**
Forestry and Land Scotland felled all the Sitka spruce and Larch trees along the new proposed paths and at the Settlement back in March under the supervision of Fiona Baker, the archaeologist, with the approval of WoSAS & the National Park however they still have to come back to cut up the 92 felled trees that may well be done in September.
- 8) **Volunteers Leader's position is open for a member to take over as DL gave formal notice to the Chair on 2nd June 2020 that he is no longer able continue with this position due to his health condition. See Job Description. DL is willing to give advice/guidance as required.**
DL said that this position needs to be filled by a member. The job description is on the CCW's website on the volunteering page. DL said he would continue with the paperwork side for the preparation of the listing of volunteers for the last Friday and Saturday of a month but could no longer walk around the woodlands to survey the maintenance required. Whilst it was suggested that two members (Richard Hall & Frances Walker)

who walk their dogs around the woodlands regularly would do this occasionally, the position is open for someone to take on.

- 9) **Pre-agreed Volunteers Dates for 2020 - the last Friday / Saturday of a month - 25/9 & 26/9; 30/10 & 31/10 and 27/11 & 28/11. Set up extra dates for 28/8 & 29/8.**
DL said that National Park volunteers were now booking volunteers days in advance for September onwards and that we need local volunteers to do so as well. As there were no volunteers coming forward for the end of August days, it was decided to cancel the 28th & 29th August volunteers days.
- 10) **Priority tasks for future Volunteers Days agreed with FLS for 2020, included Rhododendron removal, path & ditches clearance, clearance of brash from new paths route, clearance of felled cut up timber in the Settlement buildings, pesticide spraying of the Rhododendron re-growth in the Cormonachan Burn area and painting structures, etc. We are also in urgent need of more Team Leaders.**
The committee agreed the above priorities. It was suggested that in the autumn a barbeque/picnic be held at the Settlement after removing all the cut down logs from the buildings.
- 11) **Any other Business?**
DL said that one of the funders the CCW was about to apply for funding from said that whilst the CCW complied in every way to the criteria of the funding being offered, they required the CCW to be a full charity to consider offering the funding. DL said that we had already changed the organisation's legal status to becoming a limited company by guarantee and to having a 20-year lease to meet other funding and work related requirements. Adding charity status could always be an addition to being a limited company and the committee asked for this to be investigated further with OSCR.
- 12) **Date of next committee meeting?**
The next committee meeting was agreed to be at 2 pm on Tuesday 27th October 2020 at Cruach House, Carrick Castle.

The meeting ended at 4.15 pm.