

# Maryburgh Community Woodland Group

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 @ 7.00pm

Maryburgh Amenities Centre

	MINUTE of meeting.		ACTION:
1.	<p><b>Welcomes and Apologies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Attendees:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Craig Evans</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Ian Fraser</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Siobhan Fraser</b></li> <li>➤ <b>John MacKay (MAC rep)</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Rosie Macleod</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Ewan McHardy</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Elsbeth Neil</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Megan Parker</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Apologies:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Jim Neil</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Donald Stuart (CC rep)</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>MP</b> welcomed attendees to the meeting.</li> </ul>	
2.	<p><b>Approval of minute of 30.03.23 &amp; Review of actions from previous meeting</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>MP</b> asked for approval of the minute dated: 30.03.23 Minute Approved by:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Proposer: <b>Siobhan Fraser</b></li> <li>➤ Seconder: <b>John MacKay</b></li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Review of Actions:</b></li> <li>▪ <b>MP</b> asked if the registration form had been completed by the treasurer of MAC which will allow payment into the Woodland account for future funding. <b>JMacK</b> agreed to follow this up with Diana Budge the MAC treasurer.</li> <li>▪ <b>MP</b> still hasn't heard from Nick Richards in regard to the additional work required in the Woodland. She will continue to try to make contact.</li> <li>▪ <b>MP</b> has made contact with various ecologists to undertake a species survey. Gemma Nixon, a chartered ecologist, has offered to assist with the ecological survey. However, she cannot take it on fully, so <b>MP</b> will have to assist with this. Once this is done the felling can proceed.</li> <li>▪ <b>CE</b> has received all the formal paperwork including public liability insurance and certificates from Simon Logan which he has sent to <b>EN</b> for filing.</li> </ul>	<p><b>JMacK</b> to chase up the registration form with Diana Budge.</p> <p><b>MP</b> to continue to chase up Nick Richards to make modifications to the license.</p> <p><b>MP</b> to inform <b>CE</b> when the survey has been completed.</p> <p><b>CE</b> will make arrangements with Simon Logan once the ecology survey has been completed. He will also ask for some small</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>CE</b> will go back to Simon Logan to arrange a date for the work to commence once the ecology survey has been completed.</li> </ul>	<p>chipping piles to be left in the wood for the use of the Group.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Community Consultation responses &amp; analysis</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SF &amp; IF</b> informed the Group that 58 questionnaires had been returned. This equates to around 9.7%.</li> <li>▪ <b>EN &amp; MP</b> assured the Group that this was actually a very good response.</li> <li>▪ <b>SF &amp; IF</b> said that they had prepared a spreadsheet to record the tick box answers and were using various software formats to highlight the main points from the free text boxes. They confirmed they were happy to do the analysis and report back at the next meeting.</li> <li>▪ <b>MP</b> highlighted that the results showing a real Community buy-in of the project will be good for future funding applications.</li> <li>▪ <b>MP</b> updated those present that she had received very favourable responses from the letters she sent to Nature Scot, Scottish Water, Scottish Forestry, and Historic Environment Scotland. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The access officer for HC said that neither of the two core paths can be shut down and that we had to ensure proper signage was visible to all, when the work was being carried out.</li> <li>➤ Historic Environment Scotland who are responsible for the designated area were happy to be included in the consultation and happy to assist.</li> <li>➤ Nature Scot gave a favourable response and Phil Baarda, a Community Woodland Advocate from Contin came out to do a walk through with <b>MP</b>.</li> </ul> <p>His advice involved:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Watch invasive species like Beech, Rhododendron &amp; Gorse.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<p><b>SF &amp; IF</b> will continue the analysis of the questionnaires and will report back at the next meeting.</p>

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Ensure to keep the Community informed about everything.</li> <li>3. Be prepared for some people not to like the appearance of the Woodland whilst and after felling.</li> <li>4. Replace all trees felled with saplings. Preferably native trees but consider the specimen trees already in the Woodland.</li> <li>5. Look after the biodiversity of the Woodland and perhaps consider owl boxes and bat roosts.</li> </ol>	
4.	<b>Funding/grants/ budgeting/accounts/ tc</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>MP</b> said that once the registration was complete the group would be eligible to apply to Scottish Forestry for £1,000 to prepare the Woodland Management Plan.</li> <li>▪ We could also apply to them for funding from the 23-24 Discretionary Fund which could be for anything we require. This fund is not yet open.</li> <li>▪ <b>MP</b> hopes to approach a company who supply natural tree protectors in the hope they will donate them to the Group.</li> </ul>	<b>MP</b> to approach a company who supply natural tree protectors.
5.	<b>Works required/ongoing in the woods.</b> ➤ <b>Hazard Trees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>CE</b> informed the Group that he was happy to liaise with Simon Logan, but he asked how Simon would be paid. The hope had been hoping that MAC would pay for the work and the Group would pay the money back once funding came through. However, <b>EN</b> pointed out that funders would not fund retrospectively, so another source of funding may have to be sought to ensure the 22<sup>nd</sup> May deadline is met. They may even inspect the wood when the application goes in for the work so the trees highlighted cannot be felled. <b>EN</b> suggested contacting the local Councillors to ask if they could assist with funding.</li> <li>▪ <b>MP</b> had contacted Scottish Water to ask for maps which would give the location of any major water pipes the Group should be aware of. They said that there were three pipes (1 large and two small) but that the Group would have to pay for any maps of the area.</li> <li>▪ <b>EN</b> suggested that it may be worthwhile contacting the UHI Forestry School and the Dingwall Academy Rural Skills course to ask if they would like to be involved in the work of</li> </ul>	<b>EN</b> agreed to contact the local Councillors to ask if they could assist with funding as the May deadline was fast approaching.  <b>EMcH</b> agreed to contact Gavin Sinclair to ask if he still had maps.  <b>EN</b> to contact the UHI Forestry School and the Dingwall Academy Rural Skills course.

		the Group in any way. She agreed to contact them.	
6.	<b>Dingwall Community Woodland Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>EN</b> said that she had replied to a request from the Group asking if the two groups could collaborate in any way.</li> <li>▪ It was agreed that it would be good to invite members of that group to a future meeting to inform each other of their work a progress so far.</li> </ul>	<b>EN</b> will liaise with the Dingwall Group to arrange a future meeting.
7.	<b>AOCB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>MP</b> mentioned that she had discovered that there was a National Community Woodland Group so she would investigate this further.</li> <li>▪ <b>CE</b> said that he will forward all the paperwork including the letter approving the felling to Simon Logan.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MP</b> to find out more about the National Community Woodland Group</p> <p><b>CE</b> to forward all the paperwork including the letter approving the felling to Simon Logan.</p>
8.	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>EN</b> was asked to try and arrange a meeting for either the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> of May.</li> </ul>	<b>EN</b> to contact Steph about the hall booking.