

Maryburgh Community Woodland Group

Thursday 6th July 2023 @ 7.00pm

Maryburgh Amenities Centre

MINUTE of meeting.		ACTION:
1.	<p>Welcomes and Apologies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Diana Budge (MAC Treasurer) ➤ Ian Fraser ➤ Siobhan Fraser ➤ John MacKay (MAC rep) ➤ Rosie Macleod ➤ Ewan McHardy ➤ Elsbeth Neil ➤ Jim Neil ➤ Megan Parker ▪ Apologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Craig Evans ➤ Donald Stuart (CC rep) ▪ MP welcomed attendees to the meeting.
2.	<p>Approval of minute of 01.06.23 & Review of actions from previous meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP asked for approval of the minute dated: 01.06.23 Minute Approved by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proposer: Rosie MacLeod ➤ Seconder: Siobhan Fraser Review of Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN has emailed Cllr. MacLean and Diane Agnew to enquire about the discretionary funding but so far has heard nothing back. She will continue to make contact. ▪ Everyone present agreed that an informal social event should go ahead with representatives from other woodland groups, to encourage a sharing of experiences. It was felt that arranging this for after the October holiday period would be best. ▪ EN informed the Group that she had sent emails to UHI Forestry School and the Dingwall Academy Rural Skills and had received acknowledgement from UHI.

EN to continue to make contact Cllr. MacLean and Diane Agnew re funding.

EN to keep the social event on the agenda and look at planning for after the October school holidays.

EN will continue to pursue contact with the UHI Forestry School

		<p>However, as it was the end of term she would have to carry on discussions after the holidays.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP had sent around the link for the website of the Community Woodlands Association. Everyone agreed that this was an organisation we should join. EN agreed to contact the Association. 	<p>and the Dingwall Academy Rural Skills course.</p> <p>EN to arrange membership of the Community Woodland Association.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Funding/Grants/ Banking arrangements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP confirmed that the Group were now registered with the Scottish Government Rural Payment and Inspection Division (SGRPID). However, they have requested documentation which confirms that MAC have full ownership of the Woodland. ▪ DB confirmed that MAC did have full ownership but that it took some time for the Land Registry to publish this. She will look out the letter from the solicitor which confirms the purchase of the Woodland and will send it to EN. ▪ MP said that once this letter had been received by SGRPID the Group were likely to get the £1,000 to prepare the Development Plan. It would also open the opportunity to access other funding streams. ▪ MP confirmed that she and EN had completed the funding application for funding through the CO-OP, However, the Group wouldn't get confirmation of this until October. 	<p>DB to send the letter confirming the purchase of the Woodland to EN.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Future Felling Arrangements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DB confirmed that she had paid Simon Logan the outstanding bill for the felling. ▪ MP highlighted that now that the group were registered there would be funding available to cover the cost of the felling which has to take place before the 22nd of November this year. ▪ There followed a discussion about how to deal with the logs which are still lying where they were felled. From the consultation there were quite a few requests for a seating area somewhere in the Woodland. This sparked 	<p>JMacK to approach those</p>

		<p>some debate, but we agreed it is something we as a Group should consider further. JMacK suggested that the Men Shed could perhaps assist with the removal of the logs and may be able to utilise the wood to make bird/bat/squirrel boxes. He agreed to approach those working in the Men Shed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP highlighted that there was a need to address the issue caused by the runoff from the track to Dunglass Road. IF said that he had been investigating this issue and had made some calculations which have given him two options as to how the problem could be resolved. The first solution would be a 'Soakaway', but as the area to be filled with stones is 20m x 2m x 2m, it could prove to be expensive. The second and probably more viable option would be to dig in a 'SuDS Detention Basin'. This would be a cheaper option and the soil excavated to create it could be used on the paths which need repairing. The difficulty would be to find a suitable place to do this. ▪ MP thanked IF for carrying out this investigation and said that the drainage management for the entire area of the Woodland would go into the Development Plan. ▪ RMacL informed the Group that additional trees have come down on the Dunglass Road side of the Woodland and that they too may have to be addressed within the Development Plan. ▪ SF highlighted that there are still problems with litter being dumped and with dog fouling plastic bags being left in the Woodland. There followed some discussion as to how this should be dealt with. EN agreed to contact Cllr. MacLean to ask if additional dog waste bins could be erected. 	<p>working in the Men Shed to ask for assistance with the logs.</p> <p>EN to contact Cllr. MacLean to ask if additional dog waste bins could be erected.</p>
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5.	Development of Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP said that she was already preparing aspects of the Plan but would need to await the confirmation of funding for the Plan. The Group would have to start considering what requires to be done within the Woodland and prioritise. It will be a 10-year plan. We could start to prepare a 'Wish List' and base much of this on the feedback we gained from the questionnaire. ▪ There followed a discussion about the possibility of taking on a trainee to assist with the work in the Woodland or even buying equipment which could be used in the Woodland. ▪ MP informed the Group that once the Plan was prepared, we could get the Highland Council to issue an approval for all planned works within the TPO. 	
6.	Invitation to other Woodland Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As discussed in the Review of Actions EN will look at planning an event for after the October school holidays. 	
7.	AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IF asked if he should upload the Group's minutes onto the Maryburgh Hub Website. Everyone present agreed that this was a good idea and that he should go ahead with doing this once the minutes had been approved. 	IF to upload the Group's minutes onto the Maryburgh Hub Website once they have been approved.
8.	Date of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN was asked to try and arrange a meeting for late August. 	EN to contact Steph about the hall booking.