

Maryburgh Community Woodland Group

Thursday 31st August 2023 @ 7.00pm

Maryburgh Amenities Centre

| | MINUTE of meeting. | | ACTION: |
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| 1. | <p>Welcomes and Apologies</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Craig Evans ➤ Ian Fraser ➤ Siobhan Fraser ➤ Elsbeth Neil ➤ Megan Parker ➤ Donald Stuart (CC rep) ▪ Apologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ John MacKay (MAC rep) ➤ Rosie Macleod ➤ Ewan McHardy ➤ Jim Neil ▪ MP welcomed attendees to the meeting. | |
| 2. | <p>Approval of minute of 06.07.23 & Review of actions from previous meeting</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP asked for approval of the minute dated: 06.07.23 Minute Approved by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proposer: Ian Fraser ➤ Seconder: Siobhan Fraser Review of Actions: ▪ EN informed the Group that Cllr. MacLean had been in touch and that Diane Agnew had retired. However, Emma Tayler was covering for Diane Agnew's absence and she had confirmed that the MCWG would be eligible to make an application to the Ward Discretionary Fund. ▪ DS agreed to send previous application to EN to allow the application process to start. ▪ EN said that she had once again tried to contact the UHI Forestry school to ask for possible engagement with their students. So far, she has received no response. However, she has been informed by the teacher who ran the Rural Skills group at Dingwall Academy that the course no longer runs but that a Forestry group had been set up. EN will continue to make contact. | <p>DS to send previous applications to EN to allow the application process to start.</p> <p>EN will continue to pursue contact with the UHI Forestry School and the Dingwall Academy.</p> |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP suggested contacting [REDACTED] who may be able to assist with contacting UHI. MP will forward her details. ▪ EN informed the Group that we were now officially members of the Community Woodlands Association, which she said is going to be of great use in regard to gaining information on funding opportunities and additional support. MP said that she had already completed the CWA skills Audit on behalf of our group. ▪ MP informed the Group that the Scottish Government Rural Payment and Inspection Division (SGRPID) were still asking for proof of ownership of the Maryburgh Woodland, and that the solicitor's confirmation that the deeds had been sent to the Land Registry wasn't enough. This means we are still unable to access funding. She will continue to liaise with them and will perhaps ask for assistance from [REDACTED], of the NFU who has already offered his assistance to the MCWG. ▪ EN said that she had sent an email to Cllr. Maclean requesting additional dog waste bins to be positioned in a more accessible place but so far had received no response. ▪ DS said that there was a Community garden tidy up day planned and it was agreed that perhaps this could be escalated to become a Community tidy up day with our members focusing on a clean-up in the Woodland area. ▪ MP agreed to prepare a funding application to Scottish Forestry to ask for clean-up equipment. ▪ IF said that the Group's minutes were now available on the Maryburgh Hub website. | <p>MP to forward details of [REDACTED] to EN.</p> <p>MP to continue negotiations with SGRPID.</p> <p>EN to ask once again about dog waste bins.</p> <p>DS to inform the Group members of when the tidy up is to take place.</p> <p>MP to prepare a funding application to Scottish Forestry to ask for clean-up equipment.</p> |
| 3. | <p>Funding/Grants/ Banking arrangements</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN informed the group that the CWA had sent notice of the Highland Council Regeneration Fund opportunity. It was agreed by the Group that this would be an opportunity to access funding towards the upgrading of the pathways in the Woodland. However, the deadline for the notice of interest was the 8th of September. EN | <p>EN and MP agreed to prepare the notice of interest for the HC Regeneration Fund.</p> |

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| | | <p>and MP agreed to try and pull an application together.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DS agreed to speak to Cllr. MacLean about this opportunity. | <p>DS to speak to Cllr. MacLean about this opportunity.</p> |
| 4. | Future Felling Arrangements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ With the deadline of the 22nd of November fast approaching for the removal of the remaining trees, it was agreed to set a date with Simon Logan. CE agreed to make contact with Simon. | <p>CE to make contact with Simon Logan to organise tree felling.</p> |
| 5. | Request for Firewood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN said that she had been contacted by a member of the Community asking if he could use some of the remaining logs for firewood. ▪ CE confirmed that the Men Shed was now up and running and that they had requested that the logs would be used by them for the Community. ▪ It was agreed that the logs should go to the Men Shed to be used for the benefit of the Community rather than for any personal use. | <p>EN to inform the member of the Community of the decision about the logs left from felling.</p> |
| 6. | Development of Management Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP said that she was already preparing the Woodland Management Plan and was working on infilling all the required templates. The main areas for inclusion are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Tree Safety Monitoring ➢ Drainage Plan ➢ Upgrading of Paths ➢ Maintenance of Pathways ➢ Signage ▪ MP said that she will send the plan in draft form to Nick Richards of Highland Council to ensure that the plan is in alignment with the TPO. | |
| 6. | Invitation to other Woodland Groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN said that she had invited 5 Woodland Groups to an informal information exchange evening, planned to take place on Thursday 2nd of November at 7.15pm. She already had confirmation of attendance from Abriachan Forest Trust, Evanton Community Wood and Culduthal Woodland Trust. She is still waiting to hear from Aigas and from Dingwall. | |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP said that [REDACTED] may also be able to assist with this venture. | |
| 8. | AOCB | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was agreed to prepare an article for a future Maryburgh Roundabout. This should detail the work in the Woodland and have our new contact information on it. ▪ IF agreed to put the new email address onto the website and will inform the Facebook page of new contact. ▪ There followed a discussion about arranging a competition for the primary pupils of Maryburgh to design a logo for our Woodland. EN agreed to investigate how we go about organising this. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was agreed that MP could undertake some exploratory digging to examine water drainage flow in various problem areas of the Woodland. This will include where the gate at the top of the path meets Brahan Estate. EN agreed to contact Brahan to arrange a site visit. | <p>IF to upload new email address to the website and will inform the Facebook co-ordinator.</p> <p>EN to investigate organising a logo competition.</p> <p>EN to contact Brahan to arrange a site visit.</p> |
| 8. | Date of next meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN was asked to try and arrange a meeting for Thursday 28th of September. | <p>EN to contact Steph about the hall booking.</p> |