

Maryburgh Community Woodland Group

Thursday 28th September 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"> ➤ Ian Fraser ➤ Siobhan Fraser ➤ Rosie Macleod ➤ Elsbeth Neil ➤ Jim Neil ➤ Megan Parker (Chair) ➤ Donald Stuart (CC rep) ▪ Apologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Craig Evans ➤ John MacKay (MAC rep) ➤ Ewan McHardy ▪ MP welcomed attendees to the meeting. |
| 2. | <p>Approval of minute of 31.08.23 & Review of actions from previous meeting</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP asked for approval of the minute dated: 31.08.23 Minute Approved by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proposer: Ian Fraser ➤ Seconder: Donald Stuart Review of Actions: ▪ EN will continue to pursue contact with the UHI Forestry School and the Dingwall Academy. ▪ MP informed the group that we are now registered with SGRPID (the Scottish Government Rural Payment and Inspection Division) and therefore can now press ahead with the request for £1,000 towards the preparation of the Woodland Development Plan. ▪ EN to continue to raise the issue of dog waste bins. |

EN to ask once again about dog waste bins.

MP and **EN** to prepare a funding

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was agreed that the community clean up should take place on the morning of the 4th of November. Meeting at 10am. MP and EN to prepare a funding application to Scottish Forestry Community Fund for equipment to aid the clean-up. ▪ It was agreed that contact should be made to anyone who offered assistance during the community consultation, to ask for them to join the clean-up. ▪ CE has informed the group that High Vis vests had been ordered for the Men Shed and the Woodland Group. ▪ There followed some discussion about how best to highlight our web page to the wider Community. EN suggested adding the web address to the signage in the woodland. SF said that the signs in the woodland which were prepared by CE had started to fall from where they were placed. This is something which should be addressed during the clean-up. ▪ EN said that she was already investigating the development of a logo competition and was preparing the parameters for the competition to go through the school. | <p>application to Scottish Forestry Community Fund for equipment to aid the clean-up.</p> <p>EN to send around an email to those who offered help.</p> <p>EN to continue to organise the logo competition.</p> |
| 3. | <p>Funding/Grants/ Banking arrangements</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN informed the group that all our funding applications would have to be applied for through MAC, and therefore a Fair Work Policy would probably have to be prepared for MAC as most of the funders are now requesting this. ▪ EN informed the group that she had sent in the Expression of Interest to the Regeneration Fund but was awaiting a response. She is also finalising the HC Discretionary fund application to cover the cost of the felling of the dangerous trees. ▪ The CWA had informed her of the opening of the Nature Restoration Fund which doesn't close until January 2024. MP agreed to investigate how best to access this funding. | <p>DS to raise the development of a fair Work Policy with the MAC board.</p> <p>MP to investigate how to access the Nature Restoration Fund</p> |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There followed a discussion about the banking arrangements for the group and of who the signatories are for the Woodland Group account. RMacL said that she was unsure if this had been arranged. DS agreed to discuss this with the MAC treasurer to ensure the Woodland Group account signatories were assigned to Woodland Group members. | <p>DS to discuss bank account arrangements with the MAC treasurer to ensure the Woodland Group account signatories were assigned to Woodland Group members.</p> |
| 4. | Future Felling Arrangements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CE has confirmed that S. Logan will be available to fell the selected trees in late October. ▪ There followed discussion about the trees (Sitka & Oak branch) which had come down in the last few weeks. It was agreed that perhaps CE could discuss the removal of these with S.Logan. EN to discuss this with CE. It was felt that the Men Shed may want the Oak wood for their own use. ▪ SF asked if it would be useful to develop a procedure for reporting any issues within the Woodland. It was suggested that a protocol should be written up with the assistance of the Men Shed. This should be discussed and agreed with the members of the Men Shed. | <p>EN to discuss the removal of the trees with CE.</p> <p>Discuss the development of a partnership protocol for reporting and dealing with issues within the Woodland.</p> |
| 5. | Development of Management Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP said that she was ready to prepare the Woodland Management Plan once conformation of the funding for the Plan was received, the Plan could then be finalised and put out to the Community for consultation. | |
| 6. | Plans for 2nd of November Social Event | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN informed the group members that all five woodland groups invited had accepted the invitation. She then tabled a proposed draft programme which was agreed upon by the present group members. She will send the final arrangements and programme to the invited groups. | <p>EN to send the final arrangements and programme to the invited woodland groups.</p> |

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| 7. | Links with the Men Shed | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ As both CE and JMacK were unavailable for the meeting it was felt that this item should be carried to the next meeting. | Keep this item on the next agenda. |
| 8. | AOCB | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ No other business. | |
| 9. | Date of next meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ EN confirmed that the next meeting would be the social information exchange event on the 2nd of November. | |