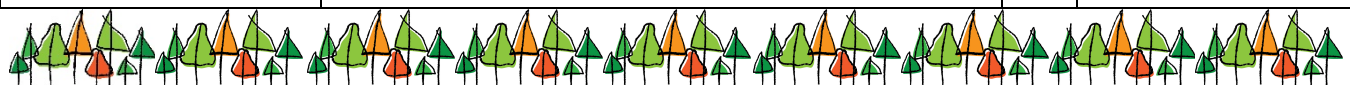


# Maryburgh Community Woodland Group

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 @ 7.00pm  
The Cottage Bar



MINUTE of meeting.		ACTION:	
1.	<p><b>Welcomes and Apologies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Attendees:</b>                      Ian Fraser (Chair)                      Siobhan Fraser                      Rosie MacLeod                      Ewan McHardy                      Elsbeth Neil                      Jim Neil                      Gareth Parkinson (Vice Chair)</li> <li>▪ <b>Apologies:</b>                      Craig Evans                      John MacKay (MAC rep)                      Megan Parker                      Donald Stuart (CC rep)</li> <li>▪ <b>IF</b> welcomed attendees to the meeting.</li> </ul>	
2.	<p><b>Approval of minute of 17.12.25 &amp; Review of actions from previous meeting</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>IF</b> asked for approval of the minute dated: 17.12.25</li> <li>▪ Minute Approved by:                       Proposer: <b>Siobhan Fraser</b>                      Seconder: <b>Ewan McHardy</b></li> <li><b>Review of Actions from 17.12.25:</b></li> <li><b>2a.</b> Tender Document preparation to stay on the actions.</li> <li><b>2b.</b> As <b>MP</b> was absent from the meeting her actions will carry to the next meeting.</li> <li><b>2c.</b> The full tree identification survey will be covered under agenda item 7.</li> <li><b>2d.</b> <b>EN</b> to contact Bord na Gaidhlig for translation once she receives the list from <b>GP</b>. <b>To be kept on as a future action.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>2a</b> <b>GP</b> to continue to prepare the tender document. <b>EN</b> to contact the contractors once the document is ready.</p> <p><b>2b</b> <b>MP</b> to make enquiries about the preparation of the woodland maps.</p> <p><b>2c</b> <b>EN</b> to contact Bord na Gaidhlig for translation</p>



		<p><b>2e.</b> As <b>EN</b> hasn't had a response from the Graphic Designer <b>RMacL</b> has agreed to contact another Graphic Designer to ask for help with the drawing of the Map for the signs.</p> <p><b>2f.</b> There followed a discussion about what should be included on the map. <b>SF</b> tabled a draft map of what could be included. It was agreed that it should not look too busy, but could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Entrance points</li> <li>❖ Points of interest eg. The quarry</li> <li>❖ Direction indicators</li> <li>❖ Bench seat locations</li> <li>❖ Tree type zones</li> <li>❖ Bin locations</li> </ul> <p><b>3a.</b> <b>RMacL</b> informed the group that she would be paying for the shed at the end of January. <b>Completed.</b></p> <p><b>3b.</b> The issue of underground infrastructure will be covered under agenda item 8.</p> <p><b>3c.</b> <b>EMcH</b> will contact the contractor working at the bottom of Birch Drive to ask for assistance with the scraping of the path.</p> <p><b>4 a ,b, and c. Completed.</b></p> <p><b>5a.</b> Tree survey to be kept on the agenda. However, even although the felling hasn't yet started, <b>EN</b> to contact the surveyors to arrange a survey for February. <b>EN</b> has to request that the surveyors avoid using tree tags numbered between 001 and 200.</p> <p><b>6a.</b> <b>EMcH</b> informed the Group that he had</p>	<p><b>2d</b></p> <p><b>2e</b></p> <p><b>2f</b></p> <p><b>2g</b></p>	<p>once she receives the list from <b>GP</b></p> <p><b>RMacL</b> to contact another Graphic Designer to ask for help with the drawing of the Map for the signs.</p> <p><b>EMcH</b> to contact the contractor working at the bottom of Birch Drive to ask for assistance with the scraping of the path.</p> <p>Tree Survey to be kept on the agenda, and <b>EN</b> to contact the surveyors to arrange a February survey. <b>EN</b> to request that the surveyors avoid using tree tags numbered between 001 and</p>
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		<p>managed to secure one pot of paint for the signs and was sure he would be able to get another. He was also sourcing the necessary screws.</p>		<p>200.</p> <p><b>EMcH</b> to continue to source the screws and the paint for the signs.</p>
3	<p><b>Finance/Funding</b> ❖ <b>Regeneration Funding Opportunity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>RMacL</b> stated that there was presently £2,580.97 in the Group's bank account. She informed the group that there had been no additional payments since the last meeting. However, £600 would be coming out of this at the end of January to pay for the shed.</li> <li>▪ <b>GP</b> has prepared a draft expression of interest form for the Regeneration Fund. This is for the percolation test and other associated costs for the planning and preparations for the path development.</li> <li>▪ After discussion it was agreed that <b>GP</b> should send this to the HC Regen. Fund officer to ask if it could go forward as a viable application.</li> </ul>	3a	<p><b>GP</b> to send the Expression of Interest form to the HC Regen. Fund officer to ask if it could go forward.</p>
4.	<p><b>MAC Meeting Arrangements</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The next MAC Board meeting is planned to take place on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> of January.</li> <li>▪ <b>GP</b> and <b>EN</b> agreed to attend this meeting and <b>SF</b> will present her suggestion for the new community website.</li> <li>▪ <b>EN</b> to send the video presentation to the MAC secretary to allow the Board members to see the proposed site prior to the meeting.</li> </ul>	4a	<p><b>EN</b> to send the website video presentation to the MAC secretary.</p>
5.	<p><b>Felling/Tree Survey Training</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>GP</b> agreed to contact the tree surgeon to establish when he is likely to take down the dangerous trees.</li> </ul>	5a	<p><b>GP</b> to contact the tree surgeon.</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>EN</b> informed the Group that Neil MacCallum had agreed to undertake the tree survey training course offered by the Culduthel Woodland group. She had paid the £30 to secure his place and he would send in the completed form to Culduthel.</li> </ul>		
6.	<b>Signage Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>GP</b> had been in touch with the Black Isle Men's Shed who have the special engraving equipment. He informed the Group that they are interested in assisting with the engraving of the signs.</li> <li>▪ The tarpaulin is now on the wood for the signs, and the Men's Shed have the bird boxes ready for erection.</li> <li>▪ <b>EN</b> suggested that a permanent orientation trail could be set up in the woodland, encouraging the participants to locate certain types of trees. A Perspex box could be attached to the main sign where the A4 instruction sheet could be placed.</li> </ul>	<b>6a</b>	<b>GP</b> and <b>EN</b> to consider how to develop a tree trail in the woodland.
7.	<b>Tree Identification Project &amp; Clean Up Day Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SF</b> has been investigating how the i-Naturalist App could be used to help with the identification and audit of the trees in the woodland.</li> <li>▪ A special project could be added to the site which would include any additional fields we would require. For example, the girth and height of each tree.</li> <li>▪ Access to this project would have to be carefully managed.</li> <li>▪ It was agreed that this would not be undertaken until after the tree survey has been completed.</li> <li>▪ There followed discussion about what work would be undertaken at the next few work days.</li> </ul> <p>❖ Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January – Area 10 to be cleared of Beech</p> <p>❖ Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February – Bird Box Installation.</p>	<b>7a</b>	Keep the tree identification survey on the agenda.
			<b>7b</b>	<b>GP</b> to inform the Men's Shed of the date.



8.	<b>Underground Infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>IF</b> and <b>EMcH</b> have been investigating where they can gain information on the infrastructure below the ground of areas of the woodland.</li> <li>▪ <b>IF</b> has been looking at the 'Dial Before You Dig' protocols.</li> <li>▪ Apparently, some of the information can be gained for free. However, some of the agencies would charge for the information. They will continue to investigate this.</li> </ul>	8a	<b>IF</b> and <b>EMcH</b> to continue to investigate the underground infrastructure of the woodland.
9.	<b>AOCB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>EN</b> informed the Group that the leader of the Beavers group would like to undertake an activity in the woodland which would assist in the Beavers gaining various badges.</li> <li>▪ Everyone agreed that they were happy for this to go ahead but probably wouldn't take place until Spring.</li> <li>▪ This topic was followed with a discussion about possible events for the coming year. All present agreed that the events were very important, but that the group needed additional people to assist.</li> <li>▪ It was agreed that all members should try and recruit new members onto the group and consider what events should be put into the calendar.</li> </ul>	9a	<b>All members</b> to try to recruit new members and to bring ideas for events to the next meeting.
10	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	<b>EN</b> to arrange a meeting for Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> of February 2026 in the Cottage Bar.		<b>EN</b> to make the arrangements.

