

Maryburgh Community Woodland Group

Thursday 9th April 2026 @ 7.00pm
The Cottage Bar



MINUTE of meeting.		ACTION:	
1.	<p>Welcomes and Apologies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Attendees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ian Fraser (Chair) ➤ Siobhan Fraser ➤ Rosie MacLeod ➤ Claire McCallum ➤ Neil McCallum ➤ Elsbeth Neil ➤ Jim Neil ➤ Gareth Parkinson (Vice Chair) ▪ Apologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Craig Evans ➤ Ewan McHardy ➤ Megan Parker ➤ Donald Stuart (CC rep) ▪ IF welcomed attendees to the meeting. 	
2.	<p>Approval of minute of 05.03.26 & Review of actions from previous meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IF asked for approval of the minute dated: 05.03.26 ▪ Minute Approved by: Proposer: Siobhan Fraser Seconder: Gareth Parkinson Review of Actions from 05.03.26: 2a. Tender Document preparation. SF informed the group that she is working on a preparatory document to be used for future applications. 2b. As MP was absent from the meeting EN agreed to ask MP about the preparation of the woodland maps. 	<p>2a EN to contact MP about the preparation of the woodland maps.</p>



		<p>2c. EN to contact Bord na Gaidhlig for translation once she receives the list from GP. To be kept on as a future action.</p> <p>2d. EMcH has gathered all the screws and paint for the signs.</p> <p>2e. GP and EN to consider how to develop a tree trail in the woodland. This is to be kept on the agenda.</p> <p>3a. The tree survey invoice was sent to the MAC treasurer for payment.</p> <p>3b. EN completed the CRF application and sent it in.</p> <p>5a. GP asked EN to hold off contacting the tree surgeon until he has reviewed the most recent tree survey report.</p> <p>5b. DS has confirmed the insurance will be updated to include chainsaw work and GP will continue to follow up on the TPO permissions.</p> <p>5c. EN received the survey results in Excel format.</p> <p>5d. Risk Assessment is on the agenda.</p> <p>6a. There followed discussion about sourcing someone to do the sign engraving. JN will continue to liaise with the sign writer and GP will liaise with his contact in Aberdeenshire.</p> <p>7a. Will be covered on the agenda. 8a. Completed 9a. & 9b. Will be covered on the agenda.</p>	<p>2b EN to contact Bord na Gaidhlig for translation once she receives the list from GP</p> <p>2c GP and EN to consider how to develop a tree trail in the woodland.</p> <p>2d GP to review the survey report and inform EN when to contact the tree surgeon.</p> <p>2e GP to continue to follow up on the TPO permissions.</p> <p>2f JN and GP to liaise with sign writers.</p>
3	<p>Finance/Funding ❖ Regeneration Funding Opportunity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RMacL stated that there was presently £2,824.92 in the Group's bank account. This includes a payment of £500 from the Co-Op Community Fund. 	



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN said she had sent in the CRF application. However, she is still waiting for the planning consultant quote and will send it in as soon as she receives it. ▪ EN tabled the notice about the Community Asset Funding. After a discussion about the tight deadline for applications, EN agreed to download the form to explore if we could apply for this funding next year. 	3a	EN to download the form to explore if we could apply for this funding next year.
4.	Path Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IF informed the group that he had met with the Contractors working at the bottom of Birch Drive. They discussed the digging of the Filtration Trench and the scraping of the paths. ▪ SF suggested opening a 'Go Fund Me' page to try and get additional funding support. She and EN will investigate setting this up. 	4a	SF and EN will investigate setting up a 'Go Fund Me' page.
5.	Felling/Tree Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There followed a discussion about the impartiality of the tree surveyors as our group raised questions with them about some of their recommendations. ▪ It was agreed that as we were not trying to influence their decision but just ask for further advice, that there was no conflict involved. ▪ EN highlighted that the local resident on Dunglass Road still had concerns about the trees leaning over the road. GP, SF and NMcC agreed to meet on Wednesday 15th of April at 7pm to examine the trees highlighted by the resident. 	5a	GP , SF and NMcC to meet on Wednesday 15 th of April at 7pm to examine the trees highlighted by the resident.
6.	Risk Assessment Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There followed a discussion about the importance of revisiting the original risk assessment procedure. This is now 		



		<p>especially important as GP will be using a chainsaw in the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GP agreed to re-examine the procedure and send it around the group for review and updating. Once everyone is happy with the changes, the procedure should be signed by all members at the next meeting. ▪ It was agreed that the Group's Shared Drive should be looked at again and brought back into use. 	<p>6a GP to send around an updated draft of the risk assessment procedure for All members to review.</p> <p>6b. EN to investigate the Group's Shared Drive.</p>
7.	Signage Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GP said that he will contact the Men's Shed to get an update on the work on the signs. ▪ NMcC said that he had a contact at the Milton Men's Shed and will inquire about the wayposts they are working with. 	<p>7a GP to get an update on the signage from the Men's Shed and NMcC to get an update on the wayposts from Milton.</p>
8.	Clean Up Day Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GP highlighted that this year's funding claim for the clearing of the beech included sections 5, 6, 7, 8, and 17. However, he was also going to include sections 10 and 11. ▪ There followed a discussion about lifting the Monkey Puzzle seedlings at future clean up days. 	<p>8a GP to go into the wood to examine what work still needs to be done and what the claim can include.</p> <p>8b EN and GP to collect large pots to contain the Monkey Puzzle seedlings.</p>
9.	Event Planning 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GP informed the Group that he had agreed to assist the MAC Gala Fundraising group with the Teddy Bears' Picnic planned to take place on Saturday 25th April. This will involve a teddy bear hunt in the woods. <p>Other dates for the diary:</p>	



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Friday 8th of May at 7.00pm. Set Moth Traps ▪ Saturday 9th of May at 10.00am. Moth Examination and Work session ▪ Saturday 6th of June at 10.00am Work session ▪ Tuesday 16th of June at 6.30pm Den Building as part of the Gala week activities. ▪ Saturday 4th of July at 10.00am Work session 	<p>9a. EN to arrange with Moth Gardens.</p> <p>9b. EN to contact the Councillors to judge the dens.</p>
10.	Tree Identification Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SF tabled a paper detailing the purpose of the identification project. ▪ There followed a discussion involving what should be included in the project. In particular what data the group should be recording for inclusion on the i-naturalist platform. ▪ SF agreed to update the fields on i-naturalist. 	<p>10a SF will continue to update the fields in i-naturalist.</p>
11.	AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There followed a discussion about the importance of having a MAC rep on the group. EN was asked to contact MAC to ask for a new representative. ▪ The Group discussed the build-up of mud at the bottom of the Dunglass path. It was agreed that the Council should be contacted about getting the soakaway beside the layby on Dunglass Road cleared. ▪ It was felt by all members of the Group that the cars which regularly park at the bottom of the path were causing the mud to churn up which was inhibiting mobility scooters from accessing the pathway. It was suggested that perhaps a 'No Parking' sign should be erected at the bottom of the path. 	<p>11a EN to contact MAC to ask for a new representative.</p> <p>11b EN to contact the Council to try and get the soakaway cleared.</p> <p>11c EN to contact CE to ask if he could prepare a 'No Parking' sign.</p>



		<p>EN agreed to contact CE to ask if he could prepare a sign.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN informed the Group that she had sent in a Group response to the Brahan Estate's 10 year plan which was out for consultation. She highlighted the issue with water draining from the Estate into the woodland. ▪ It was noted that the bow saws should be checked prior to any of the Group's work days. ▪ SF suggested that a Grab Box should be prepared in readiness for any of the work days, rather than having to look through multiple boxes for the desired equipment. 		
12.	Date of next meeting	EN to arrange a meeting for Thursday 14th of May 2026 in the Cottage Bar.	11d	GP to prepare a Grab Box for use during work days. EN to make the arrangements.

