

Maryburgh Community Woodland Group

Thursday 2nd May 2024 @ 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"> ➤ Ian Fraser ➤ Siobhan Fraser ➤ John MacKay (MAC rep) ➤ Rosie MacLeod ➤ Ewan McHardy ➤ Elsbeth Neil ➤ Jim Neil ➤ Megan Parker (Chair) ➤ Donald Stuart (CC rep) ▪ Apologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Craig Evans ▪ Guests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cllr. Angela MacLean ➤ Logo Judge ▪ MP welcomed attendees to the meeting. 	
2.	<p>Approval of minute of 02.04.24 & Review of actions from previous meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP asked for approval of the minute dated: 02.04.24 Minute Approved by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proposer: Jim Neil ➤ Seconder: Ewan McHardy Review of Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RMacL informed the group that she now had been added to the bank account. However, the Woodland's bank account cannot be accessed online. ▪ SF informed the group that we would not be able to set up a 'Just Giving' page, as to do so would require access to online banking. ▪ IF will continue to try to locate where the water pipes cut through the Woodland, but it is looking more likely that the main pipe is located where the group planned to install the Rain Garden and the parking places. IF will continue to investigate this. 	<p>DS to make contact with Diana to discuss the possibility of setting up online banking.</p> <p>IF to continue to get clarity on where the water pipes are located in the Woodland.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EMcH informed the group that he will continue to investigate accessing Community Benefit funding, but that it probably will not come on stream until next October. ▪ RMacL informed the group that she had made contact with a local artist who will do the drawings depicting Maryburgh Community Woodland. She will continue to liaise with the artist. ▪ There followed a discussion about the necessity of accessing chainsaw training for our members and/or members of the Mens' Shed. The group agreed that there already are members of the Community with chainsaw expertise who would be willing to assist and if larger jobs were required we would have to hire a tree surgeon anyway. ▪ EN will continue to liaise with other local community groups to upload information to the Hub website. 	<p>EMcH to continue to investigate the Community Benefit funding sources.</p> <p>RMacL to continue to liaise with the local artist.</p> <p>EN to liaise with other local community groups to upload information to the Hub website.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Logo Competition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN presented all 20 anonymised entries to the logo competition to those present. ▪ On the advice of the Dynam representative, the group were asked to select which of the entries would be best suited to represent the Woodland Group. ▪ The Group were asked to consider the complexities of the drawings and how these complexities could be reproduced on various formats and with differing fonts. ▪ Consideration had to be given to where the logo would be used and how well the entries could be reduced in size to suit the use. ▪ The group felt that the chosen logo should clearly depict 'Woodland'. ▪ The Dynam representative agreed to take the entry which was felt to be the best representative of our Woodland and remaster it to help the group make the final decision. 	<p>Dynam Rep. to send the group a remastered Logo entry to allow final decision to be made.</p>

<p>4.</p>	<p>Fly-tipping Protocol</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Everyone present agreed that the cleanup day and the replanting of the replacement trees had been successful. ▪ It was noted that there was less general waste collected this time, however, there was still evidence in various parts of the Woodland of garden waste being dumped. ▪ There followed a discussion on how to deal with the continued dumping of garden waste. ▪ MP said that she had contacted SEPA to ask what actions could be taken against those individuals dumping waste. They said that if the waste is connected to a business, then there would be justification for prosecution. However, if the waste was the responsibility of a local community resident, a civil suit would have to be undertaken by the Group. ▪ Cllr. MacLean suggested getting in touch with [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] to seek advice. ▪ It was also suggested that once the wildlife cameras were installed it may be easier to identify where the problem areas were located and who was dumping the waste. ▪ It was noted during the clean up, that the area proposed for the rain garden had been regularly used over the years for dumping waste materials. MP suggested that a mulching machine should be sought to mulch down all the materials which have been built up. Presently are planks of wood which could possibly be used by the men shed. RMacL agreed to ask her husband if he could ask the local resident whose property backs on to the area if he could assist with this. He may also be able to help with the water pipe location. 	<p>EN to contact [REDACTED] to enquire about the legalities of fly-tipping in the Woodland.</p> <p>RMacL agreed to ask her husband to speak to local resident whose property backs on to the area if he could assist with the waste and help locate the water main.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Woodland Management Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP informed the group that she was making the final adjustments to the Management Plan and would then be submitting it to Scottish Forestry. Once approved, we would receive the £1,000 into our bank account. ▪ MP also stated that she was still waiting for Highland Council's approval regarding the TPO to allow clearing the Beech and the Hemlock. 	

6.	Flood Plan/Rain Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IF said that he was still investigating the best course of action for dealing with the drainage problems in the Woodland. He had met with [REDACTED] to help clarify the route of the water main pipe. However, this is still unclear, but their investigations have confirmed that it would be wise not to establish parking bays in the site proposed for the rain garden. ▪ IF also established that the water table is extremely high and that there was a pond originally located behind numbers 21, 23 and 25 Birch Drive. He said that there were major drainage issues in this area which will have to be addressed before dealing with the path. ▪ IF suggested that scraping back the rain garden area would help establish the location of the water pipe. ▪ He pointed out that planning permission would have to be sought for soakaways and filters and arrangements would have to be made for closing the paths whilst work was being carried out. ▪ It was agreed that perhaps tackling the top path leading to Dunglass Road could be completed first, whilst sorting out the drainage problems on the Birch Drive path. 	
7.	Non-native Species/Beech	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP said that any removal of non-native species would have to be on hold until full permission from Highland Council had been received. 	
8.	AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN said that [REDACTED], in Highland Council's Waste Operations North had agreed to place a waste bin in the area next to number 25 Birch Drive. It would have to be a locked bin, but unfortunately there was a delay in accessing locked bins at the moment. ▪ There followed a discussion about how to deal with the dog waste bags. It was agreed that something should go into the Roundabout highlighting the need for community members to either take the bags home and dispose of them in a bin or not to use a bag at all, but to use a stick to flick the waste into the wood. 	<p>EN to continue to try to establish a bin next to number 25.</p> <p>EN to highlight dog bag waste in the roundabout.</p> <p>DS to send EN a copy of the original invoice for the survey</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP indicated that the Group would have to arrange another tree survey to be carried out soon and suggested contacting the company who carried out the original tree survey. ▪ DS said that he could send EN a copy of the original invoice for the work carried out in November 2022. ▪ SF said that she was continuing to put together a spreadsheet of all the funding opportunities which may be available to the group to access. ▪ EN suggested forming a sub-group to oversee any funding arrangements made for the Group. EN, SF, RMacL and MP agreed to form this group. 	<p>carried out in November 2022.</p> <p>EN to contact the original tree survey company and ask for a quote.</p>
9.	Date of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN confirmed that the next meeting would be arranged for the 30th of May. 	<p>EN to contact Steph to book the hall.</p>