

Maryburgh Community Woodland Group

Thursday 30th 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 ➤ 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 02.05.24 & Review of actions from previous meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP asked for approval of the minute dated: 02.05.24 Minute Approved by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proposer: Jim Neil ➤ Seconder: Rosie MacLeod Review of Actions: ▪ DS has discussed online banking with the MAC treasurer. However, it came to light that there may be charges for individual transactions. This could be particularly costly if registered for donations through Just Giving. The treasurer is going to discuss this further with the bank. EN agreed to investigate this further. ▪ It was also suggested that the CWA may also be able to advise about the best way to use online banking. ▪ IF said that he was no further forward in locating the water pipe which cuts through the wood. He informed the group that he has added a shallow swale to the latest drawing to

DS to update group on Mac treasurer's discussion with the bank and **EN** to investigate bank charges and discuss with CWA.

IF to continue to get clarity on where the water pipes are located in the Woodland.

		<p>help address drainage issues. IF will continue to investigate this.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EMcH to continue to investigate possible Community Benefit funding sources. ▪ RMacL has had no further contact with the artist. She will continue to liaise with the artist. ▪ EN will continue to liaise with other local community groups to upload information to the Hub website. ▪ RMacL said that she had visited the owner of the yard behind Birch Drive. He clarified where the boundary of his property lies and where the woodland boundary starts. He said that he would be willing to assist in the clear up of the waste ground halfway up Birch Drive on the left hand side. ▪ There followed a discussion about accessing the new deeds from the Land Registry. It was agreed that an enquiry should be made to the solicitors to ask about the deeds and the access rights on the property. ▪ EN had received a quote for another tree survey to be carried out in the Woodland. The cost will be £870; a sight increase of £30 from the survey carried out in November 2022. MP said that we may get a around £200 from the Forestry Grant Scheme and DS will ask the MAC board if they would make up the difference. 	<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>EN to contact Pat Black Solicitors to enquire about the deeds and access rights.</p> <p>MP to enquire about funding via the Forestry Grant Scheme and DS to ask the MAC board if they would make up the difference.</p>
3.	Logo Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN informed the group that the presentation of the winners of the competition had taken place at the school fete. ▪ Parents and pupils were delighted and the photograph of the winners along with MP, [REDACTED] of the Cottage Bar and [REDACTED] from Dynam will appear in the local press. 	<p>EN to send IF a copy of the logo suite for use on the website.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dynam are presently preparing a full logo suite for the group to use. 	
4.	Fly-tipping Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ JN informed the group that he had erected the 'No fly-tipping' signs. ▪ EN said that she had received an email from Highland Council's Waste Operations Manager saying that once the locking bins had been received, and the roll-out of the new waste bins was completed, a locking bin would be placed in the area of the Woodland next to number 25. ▪ He also indicated that fly-tipping should be reported via the online link and that there were severe financial penalties for those caught dumping rubbish. ▪ EN informed the group that she had prepared an update for the Maryburgh Roundabout and had included information about fly-tipping. 	
5.	Woodland Management Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP informed the group that the plan had been submitted and that she was hoping that the approval would be given very soon. ▪ MP also stated that she had still not received any communication from ██████████ in regard to approval of the removal of the beech saplings and other organic debris in the Woodland. ▪ DS suggested that if no word had been received from ██████ that perhaps Cllr. MacLean could be contacted. 	
6.	Flood Plan/Rain Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IF had sent round revised plans for the Core Paths Drainage Assessment, and although he was unsure if the group would require formal planning permission, he thought that it would be wise to seek prior notification. MP agreed and said that she would make the application. 	MP to apply to Highland Council Planning for prior notification.
7.	AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SF said that there were more Rhododendron Ponticum growing in the Wood along the edge of Dunglass Road. 	SF to try to remove flower

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There followed some discussion about how to deal with this and the large Ponticum at the top of the path along with any additional plants which are found. ▪ MP suggested that the flower heads should be removed to try to stop additional spread and to perhaps consider organising a community day to help educate people on the issues caused by invasive species. She suggested contacting the local community member who has expertise in this field. ▪ There followed discussion about how to deal with the waste ground where the water pipe runs. It was suggested to ask [REDACTED] for advice on this and to find out if a mulcher would assist in clearing this area. ▪ IF asked for a copy of the full plan to place onto the website. MP agreed to send it to IF. ▪ SF suggested that it would be worthwhile to prioritise which aspect of the plan should be funded first. MP agreed and that once the plan was approved, we could draw up a list of priorities. ▪ SF said that it would be good to get young people involved in the group. Everyone agreed, but consideration would have to be given as to how to do this. 	<p>heads from the Rhododendrons.</p> <p>EN to contact invasive species expert.</p> <p>EN to contact [REDACTED] to ask for advice re waste area.</p> <p>MP to send full Management Plan to IF.</p>
8.	Date of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN confirmed that the next meeting would be arranged for the 27th of June. 	<p>EN to contact Steph to book the hall.</p>

