

Maryburgh Community Woodland Group

Thursday 13th February 2025 @ 7.15pm
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"> ➤ Craig Evans ➤ Ian Fraser ➤ Siobhan Fraser ➤ Ewan McHardy ➤ Elsbeth Neil ➤ Jim Neil ➤ Megan Parker (Chair) ➤ Gareth Parkinson ➤ Donald Stuart (CC rep) ▪ Apologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ John MacKay (MAC rep) ➤ Rosie MacLeod ▪ Guests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Aylene Macleod (Gala Group) ➤ Fiona Shand (Gala Group) ➤ David Robertson ➤ Eddie Ross ▪ MP welcomed attendees to the meeting, and especially thanked the community guests.
2.	<p>Approval of minute of 09.01.25 & Review of actions from previous meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP asked for approval of the minute dated: 09.01.25 ▪ SF requested the following amendment to the minute: <i>change "Siobhan has set up a project for our woodland" to "Siobhan has set up our woodland as a location"</i> Minute Approved with amendment by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proposer: Gareth Parkinson ➤ Seconder: Ian Fraser ➤ Note: Agenda item number 3. preceded the review of the Actions.



Review of Actions:

- **EMcH** informed the group that he had been in touch with Tesco and the group had been offered a fund raising table at the front entrance on Saturday 12th of July.
- There followed a discussion about how we should present the woodland and man the table.
- **EN** informed the group that she had sent an enquiry into the Ross and Cromarty Heritage group and had received a phone call from [REDACTED] said that she had a book of information relating to the area between 1906 and 1918, which had been digitised and which may have some information of interest. **EN** said that she had give [REDACTED] a memory stick to upload the information to allow the group to investigate.
- **GP** updated the group on the findings of the detectorist who is about to carry out a more structured investigation of the woodland.
- As **RMacL** was unable to attend the meeting the topic of the local artist will be kept on the actions for the next meeting.
- **IF** said that he had been working with [REDACTED], the administrator of the Hub website. He said that [REDACTED] is the only person able to access the control panel and that he is still paying a considerable amount for this website.
- **DS** said that he thought **MAC** had been paying for some aspect of the website and would raise this at the next **MAC** meeting.
- **IF** also said that a completely new website may be the only solution.
- **SF** informed the group that she had looked at the number of visitors to the site and had noticed a considerable increase in the numbers since 2023. This could relate directly

Tesco table on the agenda for the next meeting.

EN to collect the memory stick with the historical information.

RMacL to continue to liaise with the local artist.

IF to continue to work with [REDACTED] to resolve the issues with the website.

DS to raise the cost of the website and possible



		to the fact that IF is updating the Woodland Group information regularly.	upgrading with MAC .
3.	MAC Gala Committee Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DS said that the Gala Fundraising group were not opposed to running some joint fundraising events. ▪ AMacL & FS highlighted what events they had planned for the coming year involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Topsy Tea Party 29th March ➤ April Fun Day 26th April ➤ Gala Week activities 14th to 21st June ➤ Fun Day 6th September ➤ Pumpkin Party 26th October ➤ Santa's Grotto event December ▪ DS said that the group had earmarked Tuesday 17th of June for the Woodland Group to run a Gala week activity. ▪ GP said that he had been looking at organising a den building event for the Sunday of the Gala week but could adapt it to become an evening activity on the 17th. ▪ MP informed the guests that the woodland group would like to be involved in community activities and would like to dovetail into these planned activities. ▪ DS highlighted that MAC relies heavily on the income made from the Gala and Santas Grotto and to keep in mind that there is a limited capacity for fundraising within the community. ▪ MP acknowledged this but also highlighted that to implement the improvements to the woodland, funding would have to be sought, and although the majority of this will be from external sources, the group will have to raise match funding from local sources. ▪ DS suggested that the two fundraising groups should get together to discuss how to move forward with this. 	<p>MP & EN to arrange a joint meeting of the</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MP & EN agreed to look at arranging a joint meeting of the fundraising groups. ▪ At this point AMacL & FS left the meeting. ▪ EN suggested discussing the ongoing issue regarding online banking to garner DR's advice and allow him to leave. ▪ EN explained why the group wanted to use online banking to assist with fundraising using a QR code when delivering events, and for people using the woods, allowing them to donate easily. ▪ DR highlighted that online banking was a cheaper option and should be easy to set up with the bank. ▪ EN highlighted that the MAC treasurer and the Woodland group treasurer had tried to do this but that as RMacL is not a signatory on the MAC account the request and been turned down. ▪ DR explained that as MAC are the overarching organisation, only MAC signatories (Directors of MAC) can request online banking. ▪ CE who is a Director on MAC agreed to go onto the MAC accounts as a signatory and to then go with DS and the MAC treasurer to organise the online banking. ▪ MP thanked DR for offering is expertise in this field and at this point in the meeting DR left. 	<p>fundraising groups.</p> <p>CE, DS & MAC treasurer to arrange a meeting with the bank to organise online banking.</p>
4.	<p>MCWG Events planning 2025</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GP informed those present that he had been in touch with two expert plant recorders who had agreed to be involved in a plant identifier event planned to take place on Saturday 31st of May. ▪ This will take the form of a family event and will use the i-naturalist App which SF has been actively using with the woodland. 	<p>Keep the summer events timetable on the agenda for future meetings.</p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Participants will sign up to the event, then download the App. This will record the plants identified and the numbers, therefore it will add a competitive element to the activity and prizes will be given to those identifying the largest number of plants. ▪ The first event planned will take the form of an Easter Animal Trail and will take place on Saturday 19th of April. ▪ It is hoped that the school could be involved with making 20 animal cut-outs which will be hidden in the wood. ▪ Easter Eggs will be offered as prizes. ▪ On Tuesday 17th of June, the Den Building event will take place as part of the Gala week events. ▪ For all these events it is essential that the group has access to online banking to allow a QR code to be produced to allow participants to donate to the woodland group. 	
5.	Path clearance update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The path clearance has been a huge success and has progressed better than expected. This has been successful due to the additional support the group has had from the many community volunteers. ▪ The next stage in the path clearance will clear the path all the way down to Dunglass Road, and will allow the first claim for funding to be requested in May. ▪ The additional areas to be tackled after the paths, are sections 3, 4, 5 and 17. This funding is from the Forestry Grant Scheme and is for the next 5 years. ▪ The additional funding application was approved in January which will involve the signage, perch seats, steps, waymarkers and the path upgrade. 	
6.	AOCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN informed the group that she had sent a request to the Ian Findlay Path Fund – Paths 	



		<p>for All, seeking advice on the development of a funding proposal. She will keep the group updated on this topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN has been in touch with [REDACTED] who looks after the waste management for the council, and he says that he has put in a formal request to place a refuse bin at the lamp post on the grassy area of the woodland. He said that it may be about 5 to 6 weeks before the bin arrives. ▪ MP thanked ER for joining the meeting and helping with the clear up days. He said he had sent in his contact details via the website. However, EN had not received this request. IF and SF agreed to investigate the website contact form. 	<p>IF and SF to investigate the website contact form</p>
7.	Date of next meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EN to arrange a meeting for Thursday 20th of March. 	<p>EN to contact hall.</p>

