

Annual General Meeting of Culag Community Woodland Trust Ltd

Location: Community Room, Lochinver Village Hall

Date: 3rd June 2019 7.30pm

Present:

Directors: Jorine van Delft (Chairperson), Gwen Richards (Company Secretary), Anna Mackay, Chris Goodman, Mel Chapman, Ian Evans.

Project Officer: Fiona Saywell.

Members and Others: Rosemary Baines, Jane Young, Romany Garnett, Jane Matheson, Griogair Macallen, Tina Hill, Stewart Hill.

Apologies:

Ian Mackenzie (Treasurer), Morag Mackenzie, Gordon Sleight, Lesley Sleight, Ken Maclellan, Mandy Haggith, Willie Jack.

1. Minutes of AGM 2018:

Proposed by Rosemary Baines, seconded by Chris Goodman.

2. Matters arising:

Sponsorship of benches: Add info to the noticeboards at Little Assynt and Culag Woods as there are still a number of benches available. The shelter on the Loch an t-Sabhail path (Loop Path) has had a sponsorship, however the sponsors are happy for others to have plaques there as well.

Wood mizer sawmill: An introduction course was done by Ken Maclellan for volunteers. Five blades were purchased for use by volunteers, one is still available. A formal process for use of the wood mizer by trained volunteers will be put together. Update from Ken Maclellan; the sawmill is working well and we have work planned to it this year. We will carry out a major engine service. Paint areas of rust with anti-corrosion treatment and if time permits, further work to the cutting head building. A number of members have been checked for safe operation of the saw and hope to get some wood cut in the foreseeable future.

3. Chairperson's report: Jorine presented the Chairperson's report. Taken as read. A copy of the Chairperson's report will be posted on the CCWT website and circulated to members. Thank you to all volunteers.

4. Finance report: Copies of the Treasurer's Notes to CCWT Financial Statements for year ended 31st March 2019 were handed out. Full copies of the financial statements were available at the meeting and will be posted on the CCWT website.

CCWT funds have increased from £10,372 in 2018 to £15,226 this year, a surplus of £4,854. This is a very welcome result in that in the past few years our cash funds have remained mainly stable in the region of £10,000. The result is due to a number of factors. Deer management carried out in the fenced off reduced area of Little Assynt has been responsible for increased deer sales of over £2,000. This level of sales should reduce to zero next year if the new fence keeps deer out. Fishing permits provided strong sales of over £3,000. New arrangements are being put in place to manage the fishings in the coming season and this may affect our future sales. As in previous years the presence of the CALL partnership has had a positive effect on the CCWT finances and hopefully this will continue for the next few years.

Accounts proposed by Ian Evans, seconded by Anna Mackay.

Thanks to Rosemary Baines for keeping the petty cash records.

5. Appointment of Accountants: Ken Hamilton was appointed as CCWT Accountant and Independent Examiner for the year 2019-20.

6. Project Officers' Reports: Taken as read & handed out at meeting.

7. **Election of Directors:** Anna Mackay, Jorine van Delft and Chris Goodman are the directors retiring by rotation, but eligible for re-election, Anna was proposed by Stewart Hill, seconded by Mel Chapman. Jorine was proposed by Stewart Hill, seconded by Chris Goodman. Chris was proposed by Stewart Hill, seconded by Jorine van Delft. All were duly re-elected.

8. **Any Other Business:**

Culag Woods: Thank you to Ken Fairchild for his continuing work at Culag Wood and also to Chris Barley for assisting Ken with the work.

Little Assynt: Thank you to Mel Chapman for looking after the compost toilets. Thank you to Susan Pease for looking after the donation boxes. Total for all donation boxes from Culag Woods and Little Assynt from June 2018 to end April 2019 was £1,720.12. This is slightly down on last year's total but the boxes at both Little Assynt and Culag Woods were out of commission for a while due to maintenance issues.

Dragonfly trail: this will be put together over the coming year in partnership with the Assynt Field Club as a replacement to the "All the time in the world" trail.

Vote of thanks: Ian Evans proposed a vote of thanks to the Directors, volunteers and Project Officer for their work over the past year.

Nature notes: An insect walk held in August 2018 at Little Assynt found the caterpillar of the small chocolate tip moth which is a new record for West Sutherland. This caterpillar was formally identified just a month ago. The report will go onto the Assynt Field club website. There will be a further visit to Loch Beannach at the end of June, led by Steven Moran.

Black throated diver raft: Thanks to Mark Saywell, Griogair Macallen and Andy Summers for the installation of the raft.

Eco schools biodiversity project/Lochinver Early Learning Centre: Jane Matheson put forward a proposal for a project to increase biodiversity in Culag Woods. This will be part of the Lochinver Early Learning Centre's continuing Eco Schools journey to maintain their Green Flag status for the third time. The area the pupils would like to work on is the Dark Pool area. Work would include clearing the path, drawing attention to this trail by means of a pamphlet distributed within the community, create areas to let in light to encourage the Speckled Wood butterfly, collect seed in autumn and scatter these, protect holly regeneration, plant hazel trees, redistribute bluebell plants to encourage their spread, moving woodpecker boxes, clearing brushwood. This work would involve help from volunteers and parents and working in conjunction with the Ranger Service and the CALLP Outdoor and Woodland Learning project. It is hoped that it will encourage more people to get involved with the woods. The pupils have been continuing with the Forest School sessions on a weekly basis. Jane stated that the Culag Woods has the "wow" factor and these sessions are the best day of the week for both pupils and staff. As nursery hours are set to double by 2020, it is hoped that maybe the Lochinver Early Learning Centre would evolve to become a full outdoor nursery. All present agreed that the biodiversity project go ahead.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm