



# **Dingwall Community Woodland**

## **Trustees' Annual Report**

**27<sup>th</sup> July 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024**

### **Charity contact information**

Dingwall Community Woodland

Scottish Charity Number: SC0 52712

Email address: [admin@dingwallwoodland.co.uk](mailto:admin@dingwallwoodland.co.uk)

Website: <https://www.dingwallwoodland.co.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/DingwallCommunityWoodland>

<https://www.instagram.com/dingwallcommunitywoodland/>

## Charity Trustees



## Objectives and activities

Our charitable purposes are to create and manage a new Community Woodland on the edge of the town of Dingwall. The woodland will be created with the following specific objectives:

- Carbon sequestration
- Promotion of biodiversity
- Recreational activity
- Education and learning
- Community gathering place
- Green therapy
- Advancement of citizenship through volunteering opportunities

We achieve our charitable purposes as follows; Carbon sequestration will naturally result from the process of converting farmland into woodland with a much greater biomass per hectare;

The biodiversity of the area will be increased by the range of habitats created;

Recreational activity is already possible on site through volunteer planting and maintenance days, but in the future will increase once the paths are installed- well surfaced and wide enough for prams, wheelchairs, buggies and bikes to ensure social inclusion and eventually joined into the wider Dingwall paths network. The woodland itself will provide recreational possibilities for walking, playing, meeting up and relaxing;

The Community Woodland will also be a space for green therapy, activities carried out outdoors, surrounded by nature provide a boost to mental wellbeing, reduce

anxiety and provide a holistic treatment which everyone can benefit from in our busy lives;

Education and learning will be achieved through the volunteering opportunities, (which will also promote advancement of citizenship) and through providing the woodland as an outdoor educational space, both formally through curriculum-based teaching and informally through giving people a safe and welcoming space to enjoy the outdoors.

From its very inception, the Community Woodland has provided a focal point for members of the community to meet and come together. The planting days held early in 2023 attracted over 150 volunteers and have resulted in new friendships. The planned activity days around woodland maintenance, path building, habitat creation and then later on holding events which the whole community can access will achieve our charitable aim of providing a community gathering place. We are creating a beautiful, free, safe and accessible space for everyone to connect with our natural world and for all generations, now and future, to enjoy.

## Structure, governance and management

Our governing document is our Constitution, which was approved by OSCR when we were accepted as a charity on 27th July 2023. The board trustees comprise the original members of the Steering Committee, established in 2021. No trustees have been recruited in the past year and although we are looking to recruit more committee members we are not looking to increase the number of trustees.

## Achievements and performance

In the past year we have had successful events meeting our charitable objectives, as follows:



## Planning Permission for Path



- Planning permissions for the All-Abilities Path was granted



## Pond area



2 small pond areas created

Within 2 weeks it was filled with frogspawn!



## Planting a community orchard





## Financial review

2023-2024 was our first year as a charity with fully audited accounts. We took in £7984, the majority of which was as grant funding from the Highland Council Common Good Fund, Highlands & Islands Climate Hub and the Highland Council Nature Restoration Fund. We also received over £3000 in donations, both from the public and from the Co-Op and the Highland Faculty of Solicitors.

Our outgoings totalled £5138, spent on the purchase of fruit trees, wildflower seed and scythes and on maintenance and preparation for the next phases such as the application for planning permission for the all abilities path, and the building of the pond.

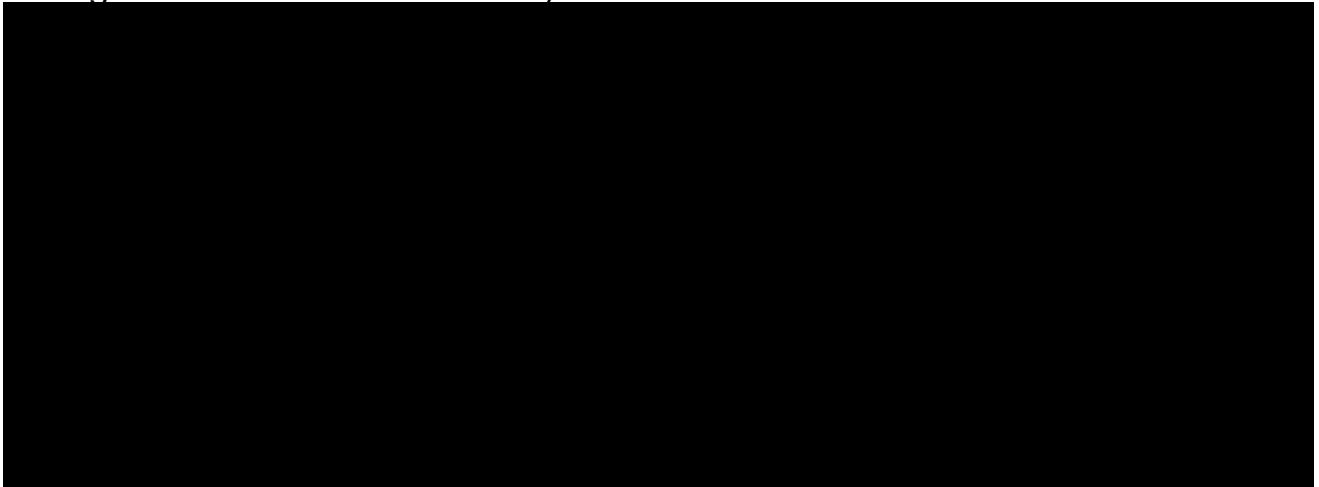
Out of the excess we have set up a separate savings account ring-fenced for saving towards building the path. Other monies are held for ongoing activities.

## Future plans

- Continue fundraising and funding applications to create all abilities path
- School and community engagement
- More wildflower planting
- More volunteer maintenance days
- Woodland ownership – moving land ownership to the community
- Open up the woodland to the public once the trees are mature enough to withstand disturbance

## Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Designation

Secretary

Date

08/01/2025



Dingwall Community Woodland

Section B Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	-	
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	2,846	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	2,846	-
	(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	-	-

Details
B2 Investments

Details	Fund to which it relates
B3 Other assets	

Details
B4 Liabilities


Details

B5 Contingent liabilities


Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature

<div></div>		



## SC 052712

Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
		-	
		2,846	
		-	
		-	
-	-	2,846	-
-	-	-	-

Fund to which asset belongs	Market valuation to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
Total	-	-

asset belongs	Cost (if available) to nearest £	Current value (if available) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
Total	-	-	-

Fund to which liability relates	Amount due to nearest £	Last year to nearest £

Total	-	-

Fund to which liability relates	Amount due to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
Total	-	-

Print Name	Date of approval
Erica Harrap	

Independent examiner's report on the accounts		v2																					
<b>Report to the trustees/members of</b>	Charity name Dingwall Community Woodland																						
<b>Registered charity number</b>	SC 052712																						
<b>On the accounts of the charity for the period</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Period start date</th> <th></th> <th colspan="3">Period end date</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Day</th> <th>Month</th> <th>Year</th> <th></th> <th>Day</th> <th>Month</th> <th>Year</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>July</td> <td>2023</td> <td>to</td> <td>31</td> <td>July</td> <td>2024</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Period start date				Period end date			Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year	27	July	2023	to	31	July	2024
Period start date				Period end date																			
Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year																	
27	July	2023	to	31	July	2024																	
<b>Set out on pages</b>	(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)																						
<b>Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner</b>	<p>The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.</p>																						
<b>Basis of independent examiner's statement</b>	<p>My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.</p>																						
<b>Independent examiner's statement</b>	<p>In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page*]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and</li> <li>to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>have not been met, or</p>																						
<b>Signed:</b>	<div style="background-color: black; width: 280px; height: 150px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p><b>Name:</b></p> <p><b>Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):</b></p> <p><b>Address:</b></p> </div> <div> <p>ould be drawn in order to enable a proper each.</p> <p><b>Date:</b> 20/11/2024</p> </div> </div>																						

\*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.