

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust  
**Scottish Charity Number: SC032801**

**Minutes of Trustees' Meeting held at Duireaskin,  
Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017 at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Andy Walker (chairman), Margaret Jarvis (minutes), Ruth Atkinson, Tim Fison, Heather Hamilton, Bill Hoare, Ann Macintosh, Richard Paul, Andy Pointer, Ian Wilkinson. The Chairman welcomed Ruth Atkinson

1: Apologies: Julie Gardiner, Mike Nixon, John Marshall, Willie McGhee, Richard Rees, Emma O'Shea, Bobby Wardle, Trish Waite

2: Minutes of previous meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2017: approved after correction of a minor error

3: Matters arising: *Alternative insurance cover:* No change will be made.

*Basil Death fund;* application has been submitted for £3000 for Project officer

*Local sponsorship;* Beyond Adventure is a likely possible local sponsor

*Archiving:* BH had nothing to report yet

*Membership pack:* AW has drafted a welcoming letter with information about HPCLT. The membership card recently issued to members of the Heritage society was circulated.

4: Financial Report: the financial report (his penultimate one) was circulated by IW. The balance in the business account is £15,717 and in the project account £8,671. IW suggested moving £5,000 from the business to the project account. The change to a single account may be made by MN when he takes over in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November. New signatories will be needed. **ACTION MN**

5: Forestry and deer culling: WMcG's report was emailed today.

Quotes for 150m of deer fence from the road down the Glengoulandie boundary have been obtained from Rab Robertson, James Shorthouse and Sandy McAdam (materials alone, labour donated)

Rob Coope has culled four roe deer and one red, despite the difficult conditions of summer. From now on all deer can be shot

Funding Update: Applications to Heritage lottery fund, Gannochy Trust, Griffin and Calliachar fund are awaiting decisions. JMT and HPCLT will have an estimated £30K for fencing costs from the Woodland Trust, paid in stages and held by JMT who will pay for the fence along the Allt Mhor.

HPCLT are still entitled to WGS grant and seek £25k, paid in stages.

JMT will channel any surplus from their public appeal for the Heart of Scotland Forest Partnership to HPCLT. **ACTION ALL** to support this appeal. Should we launch our own separate appeal? No decision was made

6: Project Officer's report: HH tabled her report. The third Youth Training course has begun. The four very keen trainees include two still at school and two who have been unemployed. They have done first aid, fencing, dyking and brushcutting and will also work with Forest Enterprise and on Schiehallion.

Tuesday's volunteers are now the 'Dun Coillich Green Team' More recruits are needed. Work done has included ongoing fence checking and tree care.

Visits: Rural Skills class from Breadalbane, seasonal rangers from Loch of the Lowes for four days, 18 European Youth volunteers for a day in August. They built a deer fence to protect the memorial pines.

Biological monitoring: 35 regen plots have been established along the burns. A weekly survey of butterflies was attempted.

Autumn bonfire and BBQ; HH requested a decision on this suggestion by TF so that she could organise publicity etc. It was agreed that this should take place on 28<sup>th</sup> October, a Halloween event. **ACTION HH,TF and all**

Heart of Scotland Forest partnership: a partnership film has been made. HH suggested that this should be put on the website. RP asked if there was a map showing wildlife corridors in the partnership area.

The JMT appeal has reached its target of £50K; some will come to us but the details have not been decided There was some discussion about seeking funding from local businesses, whether we should do this together with JMT. It was generally thought that we should work in partnership and have a meeting with Liz Auty **ACTION HH**

All abilities loop path at Braes of Foss via the memorial bench; This idea was welcomed in principle.

7. Wee Birks Field update: There has been no activity recently

Alec Butter is working in the Lower Birks between the War Memorial and our field, upgrading paths, making stone seats etc. We have approved his use of our field for access. This will involve making an angled ramp, which we may wish to retain, down the steep slope.

8: Hydroscheme update: A letter from BH to PKC approving in general the proposals, eg to reduce the visibility of the access track but stressing the need to mitigate disturbance to bird species, and to otters. Weir height will be raised by 850mm

9: Website; facebook: Photos and CVs of Trustees are still needed. **ACTION ALL**

RR will send a report about DropBox. He will also be asked about paying and donating online, possibly using PayPal. **ACTION RR**

10: HPCLT logo: the black and white version was preferred.

11: Changes to constitution: a small group (AM, MJ, RP, BH) was convened to consider this, together with Colin Liddell (fee limited to £750).

12: Orkney International Science Festival: nothing to report in RR's absence.

13: Community Environment challenge fund: This is a PKC project –information about it was circulated for consideration.

14: 'Alien' willows at DC: TF expressed concern about the willows at DC, which he considered to be out-of-place, particularly those by the scrapes. The species in question is not known so no decisions about these could be made but it led to an interesting but inconclusive discussion about native and non-native species and their suitability on DC. Should self-sown larch seedlings be pulled up? Awareness of these issues increased but no decisions were made.

15: Mutilated fox at DC: the mutilated body of a fox was found at the northern boundary of DC with Forestry Commission land. The Wildlife Crime police officer was informed, also the FC. The incident is therefore now on record.

16: Donation and planting of trees by Aberfeldy and Pitlochry Rotary Clubs: HH will liaise with the clubs about this. **ACTION HH**

17: Rotary Club talk by WMcG: This has taken place

18: SWT talk: Eilidh McNab will give a talk entitled 'What's happened on Dun Coillich as the trees return?' in the Tryst in Pitlochry on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018

AOCB: AW informed the meeting about the CWA meeting, 'Making local woods work' on 28<sup>th</sup> October in Cumbernauld.

AW asked all to think about possible speakers and venue for our AGM. A speaker from Borders Forest Trust, Rick Worrell on crab apples were suggested. **ACTION ALL**

HH pointed out that the website did not include a map of the walking trails. BH agreed to send the file. **ACTION BH**

HH had the placing of more markers on the walking routes on her 'to-do' list.

BH said that negotiation with SSE about capilisation of the wayleave was progressing; J and H Mitchell will deal with it

OSCR has produced a cybercrime fact sheet. BH will upload and circulate. **ACTION BH.**

HH has spoken to Donna Kudarenko, the rural 'Employer Engagement Advisor' working for 'Developing the Young Workforce Peth and Kinross' (DYWPK). 'This links employers, educators (including HPCLT) and youth. She is very enthusiastic about the HPCLT youth Training scheme.

The meeting closed at 10 pm

Next Meeting: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December at AW's, Keltneyburn