

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust
Scottish Charity Number: SC032801

**Minutes of Trustees' Meeting held at Duireaskin Aberfeldy
on Monday 7th April, 2016 at 7.15 pm.**

Present: Bill Hoare (chairman), Margaret Jarvis (minutes), Jim Anderson, Julie Gardiner, Richard Paul, Andy Pointer, Gordon Stronach, Trish Waite, Andy Walker. Visitor: 'Mitch' representing Willie McGhee.

Apologies: Willie McGhee, Ian Wilkinson, Sandra Winter, Tim Fison.

Welcome: A warm welcome was given to new Trustees present: Andy Walker and Jim Anderson

Minutes 11th February: approved.

Matters arising: The memorial planting has been browsed by sheep (now removed) and a goat (now outside HPCLT land) and so has not been photographed.

Minutes of the AGM held on 19th March 2016 will be circulated by BH. **ACTION BH**

Appointment of new Chair and Vice Chair: restructuring of Trust management: AP proposed a vote of thanks to BH for all he had done as chairman: this was seconded enthusiastically by all present. There was no-one willing to succeed BH so there followed a detailed discussion of the way forward.

The agreed division of tasks was as follows:

Convening chairman: RP, also fencing, Facebook, membership recruitment.

Vice chairman: AW, also newsletters/ articles and notice board

Treasurer: IW, finance and membership records

JG: AGM

Rob Coope: deer management

BH: Admin matters, e.g.OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator), legal matters, PKC etc

MJ: Minutes secretary

JA: liaison with Breadalbane Academy

TW: site maintenance (assisted by others)

AP: access, maps, paths.

TF: wildlife records

WM: trees, liaison with Forestry Commission.

Alice Jarvis: website

Project Officer, to be appointed, will deal with visits and have other responsibilities

At this point Mitch expressed his strong opinion that HPCLT had failed to maintain fences and control deer and so had not succeeded in establishing trees. He then left. The meeting felt that we were well aware of this and were working to remedy the situation. BH suggested applying for a licence to shoot deer out of season. ACTION?? WM and RC were trying to obtain funding to employ a professional shooter; they are producing a deer management plan

Cooption: RP was co-opted as a Trustee (proposed by BH, second by AP) and took the Chair He will meet Mitch, who is currently planting, on site. BH circulated a list of WGS grants and costs; he will meet with FC some time this year.

Changes in legislation; BH had circulated information before the meeting: in brief 'Persons with significant control (PSCs)' must be identified to Companies House, as must 'Notifiable Events'. OSCR requires notification of such events after 2016-04-13

Finances: IW reported, in absentia, that the project officer account is open and has £23,000 from SSE, £5000 from HPCLT current account, £5000 grant from ???. £5000 is expected from the Robertson Trust (I can't read my writing)

The current account stands at £14,000; the OEF account is unchanged. Trees (3030) cost £1270. £250 has been spent on advertising the post of Project Officer.

Capitalisation of way leave should bring in *ca* £6000.

Trees: TW will plant out some oaks.

ca 150 trees will be planted near the memorial bench on the occasion of the Yorkhill visit on 7th May (this area is too wet and exposed for oaks)

Project officer: There have been 5 applications so far; the deadline is 15th April. The convening chairman and the vice chairman will decide on the successful candidate.

Whitebridge area update: The roadside fence has been mended (minimally) by the Roads Department. Quotes have been sought from Rab Robertson for fences at various distances back from the road. It was decided to go for the longest route, cost £5000. This would comply with the wishes of the owners of Whitebridge cottage

Activities and Visits: RSPB groups have been to see the blackcock lek; a SWT Watch Group is intending to come. A second Yorkhill visit is planned for 7th May.

AOB: BH will collect used inkjet cartridges (not Epsom) to raise £1 each.

An area of land in the Lower Birks, ca 160m by 70m, currently owned by the Duncan Menzies Trust, is to be offered to the community. The Trust's legal costs must be met. The meeting felt this could be a good opportunity for HPCLT to raise its profile; there could be a community orchard in the centre of Aberfeldy. BH will look at the site with Victor Clements and report back by email. Transfer will probably be in July.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm with thanks to Margaret for her hospitality.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 16th May at 7.15 pm at Duireaskin