

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Minutes of Meeting of Trustees held on Tuesday, 8th February 2005, at Duireaskin, Aberfeldy at 7.15 p.m.

Present: Ruth Atkinson, Julie Gardiner, Bill Hoare (until 7.45 pm), Marjorie Keddie, Robin Hull, Paul Jarvis (Chairman), Hamish Nicholson, Andrew Pointer, Margaret Jarvis (Minutes Secretary).

- 1. Apologies:** Lynnette Borradaile, Gordon Evans, Marjorie Finlayson, Innes Smith
- 2. July event:** PJ tabled a paper giving details of recent visits concerned with this event by staff from the FCO and P & K Police. He confirmed that the event is planned for Thursday July 7th. IS had had a positive response to a visit to Pitlochry High School and BH from Jim Lowe of Breadalbane Academy. AP emphasised the importance of involving Primary Schools as well. A final decision on whether this event takes place on Dun Coillich will follow the visit of a larger group from London, concerned with security. There will be no press present. The FO will have two photographers. The Forestry Commission will purchase the trees to be planted, and ensure their survival. RH was concerned about the impact of a large number of people on the land and wildlife. He was assured that this would not be a problem at that time of year in the areas being considered. He also wondered whether there would be plaques on the planted trees. There was general agreement that the trees planted by children should be marked so they could revisit them, though those planted by VIPs would not be. RA suggested that she could bring a group from Corbenic. This was generally thought to be a good idea. PJ pointed out that we would benefit from very positive publicity. Incidental but relevant, a 14 foot wide, 6 ft high deer-proof gate and adjacent kissing gate will be put in shortly by Hamish Murray (FC) where the mounding machines had accessed DC before Christmas.
- 3. Keltneyburn Hydroscheme:** PJ and AP had been to Mitchell's office in Pitlochry on Tuesday 1st February. Two others of the landowners were present, Tim Braine and John Fry. The meeting had first discussed a letter sent to Colin Mitchell by Tim Kirkwood of CKD Galbraith in Inverness, giving his opinion on the total rent to be expected and how it might be divided among the landowners concerned. A copy of his letter was tabled. TK had presented three alternative possible arrangements. The first was similar to the arrangements that had been individually agreed by the respective landlords with KBH (i.e., the owners of land through which the pipe will pass would receive rental according to the length of that part of the pipe; HPCLT would receive two payments per year, the first similar in amount to the average pipe land rentals; the second payment based on the amount of electricity generated). The second of TK's suggestions was similar to the first but with the amounts 6 to 7% higher than previously suggested. The third was a somewhat different proportional arrangement, less favourable to HPCLT. Following that meeting, PJ and AP met with BH earlier today to discuss the position. The following points arising from their discussion were put. Firstly, HPCLT is the owner of the length of burn most likely to suffer some depletion of flow because lower down the Allt Mor is supplemented by the Goulandie burn and other smaller burns. Secondly, the small, exposed weir and grille, as well as about 400 metres of buried pipeline, would be on HPCLT land. The sub-group had concluded that the two-component income arrangement that we had earlier agreed in principle with KBH better reflected the extent of our involvement and was our preferred option. After discussion, the meeting endorsed that view. **PJ to communicate this to CL** PJ and AP further reported briefly that the second part of their meeting at CL's office on 1st February had worked through the new (final?) draft Offer and Contract documents that CL had received from the Edinburgh lawyers acting for KBH. The majority of the points raised earlier had been adequately addressed and CL would be sending them just a few additional comments and queries. Discussion then focussed on a further point that the sub-group had raised with CL regarding our responsibilities to members should this proposal draw to a conclusion. Paragraph 21 in the HPCLT Article of Association lays down that rental of any part of HPCLT ground requires the approval of 75% of all members for it to go ahead. This would require a special resolution at the AGM, or at an EGM, almost certainly together with a postal vote. JG and AP, in particular, thought that we should have a debate about this at the AGM. HN sought clarification about the likely timing of a formal agreement; PJ thought maybe up to a year from now. There was a reluctance to include a full debate leading to a vote at the forthcoming AGM because discussion could take over the entire proceedings, but there was general agreement to introduce the subject at the AGM, in the context of reports on things that we are involved with, allowing some time for a preliminary discussion. An EGM to allow full discussion and postal vote would be

arranged subsequently. CL would formulate the special resolution and is willing to organise the postal vote. PJ would bring this to the attention of KBH and ascertain their time scale and will also suggest that they prepare an exhibit about the scheme for the AGM. **ACTION PJ**

4. **Arrangements for AGM:** Grandtully Hall has been booked from 13.30 to 17.30 for 9th April 2005. Sir John Lister-Kaye has accepted the invitation to speak and will be sending his suggestions for a topic. RH wondered if he would be charging a fee: but there has been no question of that.

RH and BH have met several times to plan the AGM. They want to foster a spirit of enthusiasm and tabled a suggested programme together with a draft press release. HN expressed his approval of the form of the programme.

RH emphasised the need to get new people involved and announced his own possible resignation as a Trustee. RA indicated that she also may resign. JG and AP indicated that they will resign and stand for re-election. PJ described the procedure for nomination of Trustees and it was agreed to emphasise the date by which appropriately signed nomination forms must be lodged at Mitchell's office. RH will place a notice asking for nominees in 'Comment', in addition to the press release, a draft of which was tabled. Trustees were asked to email any suggestions for altering this draft to RH. **ACTION RH and ALL PJ** will email last year's poster to BH for updating. The subject of the talk will be needed and PJ will contact the speaker about this. ('Realising the Dream' was suggested by RH) **ACTION PJ** JG suggested that the poster should be distributed to other environmental organisations and this was agreed.

Displays will include a general overview (AP); a forestry update (JG); the archaeology report(HN), the RSS proposals, and other activities in progress. **ACTION AP, JG, HN and others.**

The formal report is underway. The treasurer has reported that the financial statement is almost complete, with no problems, and she expects to receive it shortly from Tim Ambrose.

5. **Minutes of previous meeting on 10th January 2005:** approved and signed.
6. **Matters arising:** RH was thanked for his work on the survey. He pointed out that data collection needs to continue to fulfil the requirements of the RSS. JG added that a biodiversity report for the RSS areas should be submitted now and in five years time. PJ has still to send a copy of 'Ravens over the Hill' to JKR. RH will provide him with a signed copy. **ACTION RH and PJ**
7. **RSS (Scrapes, fank etc):** The major hold up is that no quotations for the work has yet been received, although three were solicited. JG will encourage Bill Stewart and Willie Grieve to provide one, and one is expected from David Shanks. **ACTION JG, PJ.**
RH, JG and IS have put out canes and flags to mark the position of the scrapes. The total area is 900 to 1000 square metres (700 square metres is the required area). This is a naturally wet area with rushes. Trustees gave the sub-group authority group to go ahead and take action as soon as they had the necessary quotations. **ACTION RH, JG, IS**
JG offered to do some surveying of the RSS area and asked for some help with this. She also pointed out that there is a mound, possibly from a former quarry, which could provide material for a track to a hide.
8. **Woodland Project, deer, fences etc:** Reports from BH about the condition of the fences were tabled. Parts not in good order have been repaired; some sheep have been driven out. Eight or so sheep from Schiehallion still remain on DC. PJ will ask IS if he can drive them out with his dogs. A number of people may be needed to assist. **ACTION PJ.**
JG said she had the ordering of trees in hand, pine and native broadleaves, to be planted from the end of September onwards. She will send round the planting plan and invite comments about proportions of different species, etc. **ACTION JG**
BH had earlier reported that he had temporarily pulled the deer fence back across the opening along the border with the Forestry Commission plantations, where David Shanks, the mounding contractor removed the fence to enter the site. PJ reported that Hamish Murray has said that he would put in a deer gate and a kissing gate in that opening and permanently restore the fence very soon

9. **Any other business;** none

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 7th March 2005.