

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Minutes of Meeting of Trustees held on Monday, 10th January 2005, at Duireaskin, Aberfeldy at 7.15 p.m.

Present: Gordon Evans, Julie Gardiner, Bill Hoare, Robin Hull, Marjorie Keddie, Paul Jarvis (Chairman), Hamish Nicholson, Andrew Pointer, Innes Smith, Margaret Jarvis (Minutes Secretary).

1. **Apologies:** Lynnette Borradaile, Marjorie Finlayson.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting on 15th November 2004:** approved.
3. **Matters arising:** *Book launch* The accounts for this are as in the minutes of the previous meeting, but with additional profit resulting from gift aid. The bill for the hall has yet to come, but this is to be paid by the publisher. All agreed that this had been a most successful occasion, thanks to RH. PJ will send a copy of the book, with the thanks of HPCLT to J. K. Rowling. **ACTION PJ.** *Work parties* BH had spoken to Sandy McAdam about repair of the fence between the two properties but there has not yet been a meeting on site. **ACTION BH.**
4. **Arrangements for AGM:** The date was provisionally fixed as 9th April; this is later than previously because Easter is early, at the end of March. First choice of venue is Grandtully Hall; second Fortingall Hall. The notice of the AGM, the Agenda, Reports and all other relevant papers should be in the hands of Members 21 clear days before the AGM, i.e. before 19th March. That means that the materials should be ready for posting not later than 16th March. BH pointed out that publicity must be organised by 14th February in order to meet the March 'Quair' and 'Comment' publication dates. Thus the arrangements must be fixed as soon as possible. It was decided to have the same format for the AGM as before with a speaker and exhibition, in addition to the formal business. PJ had not yet received a reply to his e-mail asking Sir John Lister-Kaye if he would be willing to be our speaker. PJ suggested Prof Chris Smout as an alternative. GE suggested Mr MacSporran of the Gigha Trust. Other suggestions are welcome. PJ will try to resolve a speaker this week and will also check on availability of the venue and confirm the requirements of the Articles. **ACTION PJ.** The exhibitions will have an emphasis on showing what has been achieved so far and what the aims are for the future. AP suggested a guided walk on the hill, perhaps in the week preceding the AGM. A display based on the archaeological survey; and a stall manned by Malcolm Appleby, selling the silver ravens he has designed (examples were circulated by RH) are possibilities. RH and BH will act as a subcommittee to take this forward. **ACTION BH and RH.** The Articles of Association require that "one third of the Trustees ...shall retire from office" and these "shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election". The Trustees retiring will therefore be MF, JG, RH & PJ. All four are eligible for re-election. Written nomination of any Trustee, signed by at least two Members, with the nominee also confirming in writing willingness to serve if elected, must be delivered to the Office (J. & H. Mitchell W.S.) at least seven clear days before the AGM (i.e., before 1st April). The ensuing discussion emphasised the desirability of the existing Trustees soliciting candidates for nomination. **ACTION ALL.**
5. **Woodland Project:** PJ said that the contractors had completed their existing contract just before Christmas. About 90 hectares have been mounded all on the west side – over an area which can be seen very well from the Schiehallion path - and this has been done sympathetically, with appropriate open space and with sensitivity to the overall effect on the landscape. Our advisor, Hamish Murray, has been very impressed with the quality of the work. An interim payment has been made to David Shanks. A final check of the area mounded is now necessary (**ACTION PJ and JG**). All the first phase of mounding, and all that on the west side of the hill, is now complete. The mounds will be given time to settle and planting of the mounds will be done in autumn 2005. GE asked how the bridging loan operated and PJ explained that the money was released by the Volant Trust, through Colin Liddell, when required for a payment. JG added that the contractors had blocked off some drains, as requested, to increase the wetness of some areas, and had also offered to make a path through the area. AP thought we should consider this seriously. It was agreed to take this forward next autumn when the contractor is likely to be back on site working on the east side. Meanwhile we should all bear potential paths in mind when walking on the hill; BH will do so when taking people on walks and PJ offered to accompany him to look at options. JG warned against paths on the limestone areas, which could be damaged, and also could be slippery.
6. **Survey 2002 to 2004:** RH had collated the results of the two-year survey and had produced a 55 page document. This was agreed to be an important archive. RH was thanked by all Trustees for the hard work he had put in to this. He will put the document on discs and circulate to JG, AP and HN. **ACTION RH.** HN will make more copies for other Trustees and a hard copy will be kept with the Minutes etc and also, at JG's suggestion, with the wildlife records in the library. It was pointed out that there were some botanical records,

and some of beetles, to be added. It was emphasised that further records were valuable and all visitors should continue to report anything of interest that they see to RH.

7. **Keltneburn Hydroscheme:** PJ reported that he had received a revised copy of the 'Offer' and 'Contract' documents from Bell and Scott (lawyers for the Scheme) via Colin Liddell. AP, BH and PJ had looked through these and concluded that many of our earlier concerns had been addressed. PJ will send coordinated comments to CL asap. CL will coordinate our comments with his own and those of other 'landlords' and then call a meeting. PJ has discussed the overall progress of the scheme with Jimmy Stewart and obtained the following scenario. The developers are waiting to hear back from the Scottish Executive with comments on the Scoping study – both SNH and SEPA have requested extra time. The developers have requested Ofgen for a 'Licence to Generate' over eight weeks ago but have not yet heard back. If and when these problems are resolved, they will then be going back to the Executive for a "Water Abstraction Order". This concerns us in particular, and we shall need to be satisfied that it is acceptable to us before we can make any further commitment. If and when these hurdles are overcome, RSPB want work on the pipeline to be restricted to the period between mid-July and the end of September to avoid disturbing sensitive species in the vicinity of the pipeline. This could mean that work on the scheme would begin at the top end, i.e. on our ground. For these various reasons, at the moment it seems likely that nothing may happen this year. We wait and see.
8. RH expressed his and others' concern about the safety of Sandy McAdam's dam in this wet weather. The feeling of the Trustees was that this is not really our concern, but that the potential for bad publicity for the Trust, because of its proximity to our land, is worrying.
9. **RSS (Scrapes, fank etc):** Potential contractors had visited the site: BH had a helpful meeting with Willy Grieve; RH also met with David Shanks; and IS with Willy Shorthouse. All had promised estimates, but none has yet been forthcoming. The sub-group will continue to press for estimates. BH mentioned that Willy Grieve recommended the use of 'Round-up' before breaking the ground for sowing a sacrificial crop. JG was keen to ensure that the boundary fence was as deer-proof as possible before any trees were planted. BH will get a contractor on site to examine the fence and possibly take on a maintenance contract; Willy Shorthouse and Ben Campbell were suggested contacts. **ACTION BH.** IS reported that stalkers had been over the hill between Christmas and New Year but bad weather had hampered them; they will be out again shortly to do a thorough job then. IS will e-mail the result of this. **ACTION IS.** There have been no recent sightings of goats.
10. **Finance:** Beryl Coope (Treasurer) has prepared the annual accounts up to the end of our financial year (30th November 2004) for our 'independent financial examiner', Tim Ambrose, to enable him to prepare the financial statement for the AGM. Income and Expenditure documents were circulated. BC was lacking supporting documents related to the ESA payments and RSS implementation payments. IS will confer with BC on this. **ACTION IS.** The balance in the current account is £7441.62.
11. **Any other business:** none

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 8th February 2005.