

Minutes of Trustees Meeting held on Monday, 10th November 2003, at Duireaskin, Aberfeldy at 7.15 p.m.

Present: Paul Jarvis (chairman), Ruth Atkinson, Beryl Coope, Marjory Finlayson, Bill Hoare, Robin Hull, Andrew Pointer, Ian Riddell, Margaret Jarvis (minutes secretary).

1. Apologies: Julie Gardiner, Hamish Nicholson, Innes Smith.

2. Minutes of previous Trustees meeting of 25th August 2003: Approved. No comments.

3. Matters arising: PJ had contacted Jimmy Stewart regarding development of the Keltney Burn Hydro scheme but had not yet been able to arrange a meeting.

Deer sightings: RH had reported one deer sighting (of four hinds) to IS. AP had not seen any deer in Glen Mor although last year there were hundreds in the same area. IS had reported by e-mail that ten red deer and six roe had been shot. The stalker was aiming to keep numbers below about a dozen.

RH had no success with Nick Butcher with respect to hardcore for a car park. BH felt strongly that we must now be proactive about the car park. BC had met Norrie socially and reminded him that we were still waiting for his quotation,

Woodland: JG is revising the map.

RH had had received just one more report, from PJ.

BH had sent a note to *Comment* about the summer's walks.

It was agreed that we had produced a good exhibit for "A Better Place to Live". However, attendance by the public had been very disappointing. The location was thought to be poor and the aim of the event was not clear. There was little enthusiasm for participation in another event of the same kind. IR will bring our concerns to the attention of HPCP. **Action IR**

BC had not persisted in contacting Breadalbane Academy about involving the game-keeper class, as she thought not enough is yet happening on the property for this to be appropriate.

PJ asked if anyone had walked in the FC woodlands in order to consider possible paths linking with Dùn Coilich. As the response was negative, a walk was arranged for 9.30 am on Saturday 15th November, to locate possible path routes and stile positions. AP and RH were impressed by the new Bolfracks paths and thought the methodology appropriate for Dùn Coilich and an example that we could follow.

4. Treasurer's report: BC had completed draft accounts up to the end of October (the financial year ends on 30th November). She pointed out that some backdated

Gift Aid claims were included. The draft accounts were approved and she was thanked and congratulated.

5. Woodland Grant Scheme; other tree planting: PJ, HN and JG had walked over some of the ground using RA's revised map as a basis for the areas to be planted. All Trustees have been asked previously to do the same. (All should have a copy of this map). The FC require that we have a definite scheme by 15th December so any further modifications must be made before the end of this month. **Action all.** PJ is to meet with Mike Strachan the week beginning 21st November to reach an agreement. Anyone else is welcome to accompany him. At the recent Scottish Forestry Forum meeting, PJ heard that the new grant SFGS has been causing problems, thus confirming that we had made the right decision in staying with the old WGS. The prescription for stocking density in community projects has been relaxed since a year ago, so that 1100 stems per hectare for Scots pine was now acceptable. PJ pointed out that the planting areas must be accurately defined so that we do not lose the 20% open space allocation. All should re-visit the ground as a matter of urgency. **Action PJ and others.**

PJ reported that most of the Allt Mor trees had now been inventoried and natural regeneration surveyed up to 200 m from the burn (i.e., further than the specified 100 m) by students from Edinburgh University in September as part of a field course. There was very much more natural regeneration evident than seen previously. PJ will obtain the results shortly to pass on. **Action PJ.**

BC said that several people had asked her when and where they could plant trees they had and she thought it would be good public relations to begin this now. IR agreed and will pick up some trees that Rosie Hooper has offered. **Action IR.** RH suggested that a 10 m strip in the field along the fence line with the Glengoulandie wood yard, to provide a screen, would be a good place for immediate public planting of available trees. To facilitate subsequent weed control, it will be necessary, at the very least, to mark every planted tree with a cane. PJ has a supply of recycled tree tubes, stakes and rabbit guards that can be used. MJ offered to spray around the trees, to reduce competition. BC is willing to act as one of several co-ordinators. AP suggested that there should be no non-native trees west of the Glengoulandie burn, and this was agreed. RA suggested that a tree nursery in the field would be desirable in the future and this was discussed.

6. Hydroscheme: RH had submitted his bird report to Jimmy Stuart and Alastair Henderson. They had offered the use of a machine to increase the wetland areas when work on the scheme gets underway. PJ will thank them for this. Appropriate locations will be discussed in detail at a later date. BH had noticed that the Camserney scheme's pipeline scar was healing fast and this was a good sign. **Action PJ.**

7. Bird report: RH had given two copies of his report on the birds on Dùn Coillich to PJ. This lists species seen, those recorded in the past, and those that might be expected to return in the future. A recommendation is made that work on the hydroscheme takes place outwith the breeding season. Habitat improvement is also recommended, particularly increasing the area of wet ground and open water. The new fishing loch at the end of Sandy McAdam's land may attract more birds. The

burns are important habitat, as are the areas of marsh. A small amount of effort, using machines, could increase the amount of water and encourage waders. The area around the sheep fank seems suitable for this. PJ agreed with the proposal to increase marshland. He had seen snipe on the drained areas adjoining the Forestry Commission land and thought that blocking these drains would increase wetness significantly. These areas had apparently dead willows, some of which are now shooting from the roots.

8. Book: JK Rowling and Price Charles had both declined the invitation to write a preface for RH's book. He may now ask Magnus Magnusson. The publisher had now retired but would coordinate with his successor. The underwriting cost would be £1500, for a print run of 1000. This would enable the sale price to be set at a reasonable level. RH had earned £250 of this by doing the bird survey for the proposed hydroscheme; MI had pledged £50 and HPCLT £500 (some of this would be recouped by sales). RH was willing to make up the rest himself but it was agreed unanimously to increase the HPCLT guarantee to £700.

9. TV: Melanie and Jason O'Flynn are still keen to do a video on Dùn Coillich. They are BBC-trained and have good equipment. They have been to the property with RH and photographed grass of Parnassus. RH has drafted a script and arranged that some of IS's material can be incorporated. However, he warned us not to expect rapid results!

10. Report on Birdathon: There had recently been a party to distribute the prizes for the birdathon. The binoculars had been auctioned for £50, increasing the total raised to £850. RH was warmly congratulated.

11. Any other business: BH had been approached by the Tryst walking group in Pitlochry about a walk on Dùn Coillich. This has been arranged for 2nd December. MF pointed out that this request was especially welcome since the group was Pitlochry-based, and not Aberfeldy-based. A botanical group had asked PJ if they could visit in June next year.

RH deplored what he saw as a lack of drive in getting things done in. He thought the time between meetings had been too long and we must push things forward more effectively. He found it difficult to write a regular report for '[Comment](#)' etc. if nothing was happening. BH considered that we don't have a very visible profile; MF queried what we might do about this PJ had some sympathy with this. He wondered how far image and change on the ground were linked. Maybe we should programme things more in advance as we all had busy lives. He mentioned that a partnership with JMT and FC about paths was proceeding, and RA pointed out that the WGS was approaching a deadline. The car park is stalled: PJ will find out from IS if there has been any further progress. **Action PJ.** AP said that the new Bolfracks car park was only hard-core. However, BH emphasised that that was on a flat site with good site lines - a very different situation from ours. AP suggested having regular work-parties on the property on a fixed date each month, or every second month. BH pointed out that a work-party needs preparatory work beforehand to ensure the needed tools and equipment was available. He thought we should list things that might be done, e.g., demolishing the sheep fank, blocking up drains, making paths, making another

kissing gate etc., and then schedule the tasks. Suggestions should be made to BH. **Action all.**

A date of 27th March was agreed for the AGM. PJ said that Charlie Taylor might be willing to speak about the FC's 30-year plans for the local area. There will, for example be a major change towards broadleaves after felling the present conifer plantations. BC said a similar talk on the Loch Tummel area had been very successful. The idea was accepted with enthusiasm. PJ will contact Charlie Taylor. **Action PJ.**

12. Date of next meeting: to be arranged.

(The proposed date has turned out to be unacceptable to too many)