

## Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

### Minutes of Meeting of Trustees held on Tuesday 27 November 2007 at 7:15 p.m. at Donafuil

**Present:** Rob Coope, Gordon Evans (chairperson), Julie Gardiner, Bill Hoare, Robin Hull, Paul Jarvis, Margaret Jarvis (Minutes), Andrew Pointer and Clare Thomas

**1. Apologies:** Tim Fison, and Ann Partridge

**2. Minutes of previous meeting; 7 August 2007:** Approved without change (proposed BH; seconded RH)

**3. Matters arising:** Pylon lines: to date way-leave payments of £100 and £72.10 had been received from Scottish and Southern Electricity Board.

TF has some information about ticks and is getting more. **ACTION TF**

PJ said that, according to Aberfeldy Medical Centre, the incidence of Lyme disease in the area had increased considerably over the past five years..

#### 4. Reports from Groups:

**a). Woodlands and WGS:** PJ had spent a long time measuring the areas planted this year because of their irregularities, a total of about 30 hectares plus 10 hectares of natural regeneration. The WGS grant was applied for in October but there has not yet been a response. There are still some mounded areas to be planted in the spring, together with beating-up. JG expressed concern about the damage by deer – there are many nibbled trees and about 10% are dead. If more than 50% are dead we may have to repay the grant received. She will make an assessment of the % of dead trees in the spring. **ACTION JG.** She suggested a joint meeting with JMT and FC to coordinate culling and deer management. AP reported that a total of 6 roe deer had been shot over the past three months by Ben and RC added that as JMT and FC are already shooting deer a joint meeting would not help. FC was trying to keep the deer population down on their ground and the JMT ranger was also taking roe deer more seriously. BH noted that Sandy McAdam has now shot the three red deer that had escaped from his ground onto Dun Coillich, but there may still be a red deer stag and hind present. BH emphasised that more people were needed to walk regularly over the ground to check fences and deer incursions. **ACTION ALL**

JG suggested sowing birch seed on some of the ploughed RSS area so as to reduce the need to buy plants in the future. PJ noted that good quality trees had been obtained from John Watkinson of Woodbury Estate for the spring planting and for the recent planting by school children and he proposed to obtain trees from him again in future. JG noted that Christies, who had supplied some poor quality Scots pines for the earlier planting, has changed ownership so the promise of replacements may not be honoured.

PJ reported that more bracken spraying will be necessary, about next July, on planted areas where bracken is vigorous and tree survival is poor. Willie Shorthouse will be asked to do this.

**b). Maintenance, Fencing and RSS :** PJ reported that Willie Shorthouse had made a good job of repairing the 200 m of fence along the Schiehallion boundary. He replaced 24 posts and 3 strainers (the wire was still good and did not need replacing), and has replaced the original seriously damaged gate with a new kissing gate, a bit further south as agreed previously with the Schiehallion Group. The total cost is £567 and Andrew Campbell has agreed that JMT will pay a part of this. Incursion of roe deer through the fence on the northern boundary with FC was discussed and it was agreed to obtain a quote to net the fence to exclude roe deer. **ACTION PJ.** RC mentioned that Willie Shorthouse is being employed

by FC to check some of their fences. PJ has wood for two more stiles and hopes to prefabricate them soon. **ACTION PJ**

MJ has taken over administration of the RSS grant from Innes Smith and went with him in August to apply for the SIACS payment (£1494 was received in September). She will apply for subsequent payments when due. **ACTION MJ**.

JG wondered whether ploughing of the sacrificial crop area would continue to be necessary; decision was deferred. BH reported that no silage had been cut this year over the wider area – the quality was so poor that it was not worth the effort to cut it. The wider area was currently being grazed by cattle; they were fenced out of the car park area, the area of sacrificial crop and the area with planted trees.

**c). Visitor Access and Car Park** At the instigation of PKCT (Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust) a walk (AP, PJ, CT, TF) took place in September, together with members of the Schiehallion Group (Willie Miller), JMT (Andrew Campbell) and PKCT (Robbie Gordon), to explore the possibility of a route to connect the HPCLT, Tomphubil and Schiehallion car parks via tracks across Dun Coillich and through the FC plantations. PKCT is likely to support an application to Future Scotland to grant-support the establishment of such linking routes; the application to be made in January 2008. Grant-money would largely be used for signs and information, and possibly for board-walks over wet areas. It was noted that this concept is not a part of the “core path network” but is to facilitate an access partnership between FC, JMT and HPCLT, that would provide a range of alternative recreational opportunities in the area in addition to climbing Schiehallion. Some parts of the possible route were flagged with markers and GPS points recorded. RH emphasised that the route should *not* cross the bird hide observation area or cross the burn at the ford; the replacement foot bridge should not be at the ford but in the vicinity of the original footbridge (washed away) and thus nowhere near the ponds. CT emphasised that no new gaps should be made in the head dyke. AP will produce a plan of a suggested route and AP and PJ will consult further with Robbie Gordon and put in an application in January. **ACTION AP, PJ**  
BH has received large treated poles from the Electricity Board long enough to make a substantial new footbridge.. Advice is being sought about construction and design from Jimmy Stewart. **ACTION BH**

#### **d). Observation and Educational Facility (OEF)**

RH reported that £8000 has already been received from the P and K Quality of Life Fund; £2000 more was promised. About £7500 has been spent so far, leaving a reserve of about £10.000 RH reported that the cost of the building had been reduced by a 10% discount. The building, ‘Ruska’, is currently under a tarpaulin awaiting good weather for its erection Insurance has been arranged, with the same company that provides our Public Liability cover, for an additional £52 per year. The building, about 4 m by 6 m, will stand on concrete blocks on a graded gravel base.. Levelling and joinery work will be done by John Wright of Burnside Joiners, who is very keen to help. He estimates two men taking 5 days, at £26 per hour .He has suggested that a tin roof will be needed rather than shingles, because of the windy location. BH noted that planning consent must be adhered to. Furnishings and storage will be needed. Bird feeders between the hide and the burn and a wall for sand martins are planned. In the hide, laminated information sheets, a large map etc, should be on display. CT gave a reminder that such a map should be available at all Trustees’ meetings. **ACTION PJ**

#### **.e). Natural and Cultural Heritage**

CT had done another survey walk and had begun an information sheet for OEF.

**f). Keltneyburn Hydro Scheme.** PJ read out a letter received from Colin Liddell, based on information that he has received from Jimmy Stewart, to the effect that a definite 'yes' or 'no' should be forthcoming before the end of the year.

**g). Education Activities:** Sixteen pupils and three teachers from Kenmore Primary School had spent a very happy and successful day tree-planting on 24<sup>th</sup> October. Lynnette Borradaile had led the activities and enthused the children; TF, PJ and MJ had assisted with digging holes in the mounds for the children to plant into. 50 trees of each of 4 species had been collected for the purpose from Woodbury Estate. Trees not used by the children were used for 'beating up' in the vicinity

**h). Public Relations and Website** A new updated website is imminent. A note will be sent out as soon as it is ready. Email for contacts is now contacts@hpclt.org

## 6. Treasurer's Report:

Bank balance:           Current account: £ 5473.38  
                                   Reserve account: £ 35,299.52  
                                   OEF account       £ 8686.95  
                                   (WGS loan outstanding £57,000)

Detailed income and expenditure sheets were tabled.

A subscription reminder to previous members (28 are outstanding) will be sent out, with a Newsletter, in the near future **ACTION GE**. BH has been collating material for the Newsletter and will send it to JG for compilation and printing. **ACTION BH, JG**.

## 7. Any Other Business

- a. AGM** BH emphasised that publicity must be prepared in good time. Aubrey Manning will be our speaker on 15<sup>th</sup> March. The Tryst in Pitlochry has been booked provisionally from 13.30 until 18.30.
- b.** CT reported that the Schiehallion Group would like to have a field meeting on Dun Coillich on DC on 16<sup>th</sup> May, in the evening. This was welcomed.
- c.** BH will lead a walk on DC during SWT Wildlife Week, as last year.. This was also welcomed
- d.** Proposed developments. We have received two neighbour notifications with respect to planning applications. The first, from Glen Lyon Estate, is for two staff dwellings, one and a half stories in height, to be built on the other side of the B846 between the original Glengoulandie cottage and the road. The second, from the Glengoulandie caravan park, is for seven chalets for holiday homes, similar to those further south, very close to our southern boundary; and for the four new or refurbished houses adjacent to the chalets. Neither planning application is yet formally registered. BH has established contacts with the agents for the applicants and will keep a check on registration. Once registered, plans can then be down-loaded from the web and we will have two weeks within which to respond, should we wish to do so. RH, and GE will join BH (PJ if BH away) in responding. RH strongly advocates screening with trees along the boundary. Landscaping may be included in the full plans.  
**ACTION BH, (PJ), GE, RH.**

CT will contact David Strachan, P and K Heritage Trust, about archaeological structures on the development sites to ensure proper recording (e.g. Glengoulandie cottage is shown on Roy's map; there is a lime kiln on the other site).

AP mentioned again the possibility of encouraging affordable housing on HPCLT land.

e TF had attended the local Breadalbane (formerly Glen Lyon) Deer Management Group (DMG) meeting on behalf of HPCLT. A levy of £9 per stag shot (3) has been requested. RC explained that this money pays for DMG admin. but that a non-sporting estate should pay at a lower rate. PJ made the point that our WGS is conditional on our having a Deer Management Plan and reporting deer killed to a DMG. RC pointed out that DC lies between the Breadalbane and Strathtay DMGs, but that it makes more sense for us to be in the Breadalbane group. RC suggested that, as a non-sporting Estate, we should ask to pay half the levy and also make it clear that we might need help from the DMG, from time to time, in controlling red deer incursions. The next DMG meeting is in April; TF should attend if possible. **ACTION TF**

**8. Future Meetings** The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2008** at 7:15 p.m. at the home of RH . The AGM will be the first item. A large map will be brought.

The meeting ended at 9:45 p.m.