

Minutes of Trustees Meeting held on Monday, 29th May 2003, at Duireaskin, Aberfeldy at 7.15 p.m.

Present: Paul Jarvis (chairman), Beryl Coope, Julie Gardiner, Robin Hull, Andrew Pointer, Margaret Jarvis (minutes secretary).

1. Apologies: Ruth Atkinson, Bill Hoare, Marjory Finlayson, Hamish Nicholson, Ian Riddell, Innes Smith.

2. Minutes of previous Trustees meeting of 5th May: Approved for signature after addition of thanks to all involved in the transfer of the goats to the Kent Wildlife Trust and to JMT for contributing half the cost. Sandy McAdam is also thanked for being extremely helpful in rounding up the goats and it is noted that he has retained some goats in the deer park, for which he is responsible.

3. Matters arising: The grant panel for 'Transforming you Space' will not now meet until 4th June. We should hear the result re the car park funding shortly after.

An article in the Scotsman about the goats was circulated. BH had received some negative comments from someone who was of the opinion that the goats had been there for hundreds of years. This is misguided since they were bought only 20 or so years ago, the previous herd having long since died out. Wendy Mattingley had seen three goats on the Schiehallion side of the fence including the missing old billy.

PJ had not succeeded in making effective contact with Ian Hulbert. **ACTION PJ**

The group who are to discuss a future management plan have not yet met. **ACTION RA, JG, AP and others.**

4. Change of Insurance Company: AON had intimated, just a few days before the renewal date (10th May), that Norwich Union would not now renew the Public Liability policy, because it was 'stand-alone'. AON, however, recommended Zurich Municipal, which will give the same cover, and will also include volunteers within the public liability cover, for £350 plus tax. This has been in place since 12th May.

5. Mitchell's account for their role as Company Secretary. For the period 31st March 2002 to 31st March 2003, this amounted to £700, plus VAT. This includes generous reductions in normal charges.

6. Hydro schemes on the Allt Mor. Both schemes, 'Keltneyburn Hydro' and 'Allt Mor Renewables', have recently produced large, preliminary documents. PJ, AP, BH, JG and IR will meet to evaluate these (6.00 p.m. 8th July) and will comment to all other Trustees at the immediately following Trustees meeting. **ACTION PJ, AP, BH, JG and IR.**

7. Forest visits: new FC local forest; NTS plantings at Ben Lawers: Mike Strachan has made some suggestions of suitable forests to visit. Bolfracks Forest includes two areas of native forest, ten and three years old. A note on access to the areas was distributed. All were encouraged to visit the areas either individually or in a group(s) JG, RA and IS will organise visits. **ACTION JG, RA, IS**

Coincidentally, David Mardon, NTS Chief Ranger, has arranged a day to visit new plantings at Ben Lawers, 20th August 2003. Meet at 9.30 a.m. at NTS offices in Killin. RSVP by 30th June to Error! Bookmark not defined.. **ACTION ALL**

Copies of the new Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme, provided by Mike Strachan, were/are available to all Trustees.

8. Deer removal action plan. BH had seen 28 deer, and 9 sheep, on the hill recently. PJ had contacted S McAdam regarding their removal. He was against driving the deer into the deer park as they are wild deer and would be disruptive. PJ suggested driving them through the gate onto east Schiehallion. We would need 50 or so volunteers, plus dogs, after July when birds will have finished breeding, to form a cordon. BH to be asked if he would organise this. **ACTION PJ and BH.**

9. Tree Survey. Two third year students of forestry and ecology at Edinburgh University were interested in the task of making a GIS-based inventory of all the trees along the two burns. £400 would be needed to cover two weeks costs. Doubts were expressed about the value of this. JG emphasised that we should make clear exactly what information we needed, particularly about health and seed production by the trees. The idea was accepted in principal, since it was agreed that trustees would not have time to do such an inventory themselves. JG will ask MS informally about the chance of getting funding. **ACTION JG.**

10 Reports.

Membership. So far there are 60 individual members plus one child. This is less than last year. PJ will e-mail the current membership form to BC and she will liase with Gordon Evans, who is taking on the job of membership secretary. **ACTION PJ & BC.**

Surveys. RH reported that this was going very slowly. All trustees are encouraged to complete more forms and send in the information that they have. Trustees are to be e-mailed about this. **ACTION MJ. ACTION ALL**

Birdathon. RH reported that only two forms had been returned and only five people so far had said they would be at the party afterwards. There have, however, been generous donations of prizes. BC will publicise the Birdathon at a forthcoming SWT meeting. **ACTION BC.** The Courier had an article about the Birdathon yesterday. RH and Tim Fison are in frequent contact. IR, BH and Sue Hoare are also working hard on it. The situation is very disappointing and Trustees will be e-mailed about this to try to raise the level of interest and participation. **ACTION MJ**

11 . Any Other Business

BC reported that Marjory Bourne will be bringing primary school children to look at vegetation on Dùn Coillich.

BH has read a copy of RH's manuscript for his book and is very supportive of it. The draft is now with the publishers.

AP has spoken to Hamish Murray, Forestry Commission officer. He has 200 or so waist-high Rannoch Scots pine available. JG will contact him. Early spring is the best time for planting. **ACTION JG.**

BH has fixed more walk dates. These are: Friday 27th June, Saturday 19th July, Thursday 28th August, starting opposite Glengoulandie Cottage; Wednesday 9th July, Saturday 23rd August, starting just north of Whitebridge cottage, all at 10 a.m.

11. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 8th July, 7.15 p.m., Duireaskin.