

**Draft**

**Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust  
Incorporating the Dùn Coillich Project and the Wee Birks Field Project**

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting  
held in the Kynachan Hall, Tummel Bridge  
2.20pm Saturday 24th March 2018**

*Welcome and Introduction:* The Chairman, Andrew Walker, welcomed 40 people to the sixteenth AGM of the Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust.

**1. Apologies**

Fiona Danks, Jeannie Grant, Keith Griffiths, Sue Hoare, Gillian Hull, Robin Hull, Richard Jarvis, Colin Liddell, Audrey Litterick, Ann and Colin Macintosh, J&H Mitchell WS, Hamish Nicholson, Emma O'Shea, Loretta Reynolds, Maisie Steven, Margaret Thomas, Bobby Wardle

**2. Outcome of EGM to consider Special Resolution to adopt new Articles of Association**

The Special Resolution was approved.

**3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 25th March 2017 (previously distributed)**

Approved (proposed by Andy Pointer; seconded by Sandra Winter).

**4. Matters arising**

Richard Jarvis had requested guided walks on Dun Coillich. Weather problems had caused difficulties with arrangements and more progress is needed with this. There has been some brush cutting of the routes to make walking easier and more will be done this year; some Trustees will be trained to do this.

**5. Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year to 30 November 2017 (previously distributed)**

The Chairman noted that the Annual Report described the Trust's work during the year. He highlighted the following activities.

The **Project Officer**, Heather Hamilton, who had been in post since July 2016, runs the Volunteering and Rural Skills Training Project. This has gone from strength to strength: the fourth intake of trainees started last month, and previous trainees have found their job prospects considerably improved by the skills they have acquired: the majority of former participants now have jobs relevant to their training. One of the first intake is now a Trustee of HPCLT. A more recent trainee, who is studying for a part-time MSc in Conservation Management and is working as a JMT land management trainee at Schiehallion, has also expressed an interest in becoming a Trustee.

Heather is working on ways to improve Dun Coillich for visitors: plans include a composting toilet, noticeboard in the car parks, new signage at the entry points to DC, and map and leaflet dispensers. Heather also organises the use of DC as an educational resource: it is now regularly used by local schools and over the past year has been used by

a PhD student from Stirling University studying the effect of upland woodland regeneration on biodiversity.

Heather was applauded for her achievements.

**Funding** is essential. It has come from various sources, including the Gannochy Trust, the Griffin and Calliachar Fund, and the Basil Death fund, which will secure the Project Officer post until the end of 2020. The Forestry Commission, represented here today by Neil McFarlane, has officially recognised our success in tree establishment and we will receive payment under stage two of the Woodland Grant Scheme. The Woodland Trust, working through the Heart of Scotland Forest Partnership, will fund the upgrade of the fence along the Allt Mor. Other grant applications are in the pipeline. Willie McGhee was thanked for all his work on this.

The success in tree establishment was linked to success of **wildlife** at Dun Coillich. As an example, in the course of three hours, Wendy Mattingley, of the Scottish Raptor Study Group, saw a pair of golden eagles, two pairs of hen harriers, a pair of kestrels, a peregrine, a sparrowhawk and a buzzard. We receive regular reports from RSPB on the whereabouts of our satellite-tagged hen harriers.

**Heart of Scotland Forest Partnership:** a short film, put together by the John Muir Trust, was shown.

In the expected absence of Ian Wilkinson, Tim Ambrose (Independent Financial Examiner) spoke to the **Accounts**. He congratulated the Charity on its Trustees. The accounts show a small surplus both of unrestricted funds and of restricted funds and the trust is soundly based financially.

#### **6. Approval of Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year to 30 November 2016**

The Report and Accounts were approved (proposed by Rosie Hooper; seconded by Richard Paul).

#### **7. Retirement and Election of Trustees**

Andy Pointer and Ian Wilkinson must retire and are not eligible for re-election. Ann Macintosh wished to retire, for personal reasons. Gordon Stronach has retired because he has moved away from this area. Bill Hoare must retire but is eligible for re-election. Bill Hoare (proposed by Richard Paul, seconded by Andrew Pointer), John Marshall (proposed by Bill Hoare, seconded by Andrew Walker) and Mike Nixon (proposed by Andrew Pointer, seconded by Bill Hoare) were elected. Five vacancies remain and may be filled by co-option.

The Chairman thanked the retiring Trustees and welcomed new Trustees; Mike Nixon was the new Treasurer.

#### **8. Subscriptions**

The subscription rate would remain at £10 annually, but would now be for an individual rather than a household, in order to avoid complications when it comes to voting eligibility.

#### **9. Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner**

Tim Ambrose was thanked for his efforts over many years. He is willing to continue and

was duly reappointed (proposed by Bill Hoare, seconded by Margaret Jarvis). Special thanks were also given to Ian Wilkinson, who retires as treasurer after many years.

**Any other competent business**

BH pointed out that the new Data Protection Regulations would apply to HPCLT . Consent would be necessary for any personal information to be shared. Colin Liddell's annual seminar for charity trustees will be on 11<sup>th</sup> April and will explain the change. The cost of attendance will be paid by HPCLT.

**The formal meeting adjourned at 14.50.**

The Chairman introduced the Guest Speaker, Dr David Hetherington from Cairngorms National Park Authority.

His informative talk, entitled *Mountain woodland restoration in the Cairngorms National Park*, was enjoyed by all. As a thank you, the book 'Ravens over the Hill' by Robin Hull, detailing the history of Dùn Coilich was presented to him, together with a bottle from the local distillery. After a stimulating Q and A session, refreshments were enjoyed.

**THESE MINUTES TO BE APPROVED AT AGM in MARCH 2019**