

**DRAFT**

## Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust Incorporating the Dùn Coillich Project

### **Minutes of Annual General Meeting held in the Village Hall, Grandtully 2.00pm Saturday 25th March 2017**

*Welcome and Introduction:* The Chairman, Richard Paul, welcomed 23 people to the fifteenth AGM of the Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust.

*1. Apologies:* James Anderson, Tim and Ruth Fison, Jeannie Grant, Robin Hull, Margaret Jarvis, Colin Liddell, J&H Mitchell WS, John Marshall, Willie McGhee, Audrey Litterick, Gordon Stronach, Ian Wilkinson.

*2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19th March 2016 (circulated):* Approved (proposed by Sandra Winter; seconded by Andrew Walker) subject to one correction: Colin Liddell and J&H Mitchell had sent apologies.

*3. Matters arising;* The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Robin Hull (Founder Trustee) as at the 2016 AGM Robin had expressed some misgivings about the lack of motivation of the Trust. Richard reassured him that the Trust was currently in a very good state. Robin Hull expressed a wish for the Trust to have better links with The Crannog, Loch Tay and for the Trustees to consider a poetic connection for the name of the newly acquired land in Aberfeldy. No other matters arising.

*4. Special Resolution introduced by Bill Hoare:*

Considering that SSE has offered the Charity 20 times the annual sum of the current rentals plus reasonable legal costs in return for formal Deed(s) of Servitude and that the £8500 (approx) thereby generated will be used in furtherance of the Trust's charitable purposes as detailed at Clause 3 of its Memorandum of Association, to proceed with the capitalisation of the several wayleaves currently in place with Scottish & Southern Electricity (SSE) for their Pylon, posts, and cables (electricity and communication, above and below ground) in the White Bridge area of Dun Coillich.

After discussion, a vote was taken. Thirteen members voted in favour of the motion. (Total number of members voting: 12 members present and 2 proxies.) The special resolution was carried with a vote of 92% in favour. This means SSE can proceed with necessary legalities.

*5. Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year to 30 November 2016 (circulated previously):*

The Chairman made some comments as follows:

It had been a very dynamic year. The work of the **Project Officer, Heather Hamilton**, had made a huge difference to the work of the Trust. In particular, she has co-ordinated weekly volunteer work parties at Dùn Coillich and run the first 20-week Rural Skills Training Course which has been a great success.

Willie McGhee has been instrumental in gaining the necessary funding to employ the Project. Due to the efforts of Willie McGhee, the Forestry Commission is happy with progress on the use of their funds from the **Woodland Grant scheme** at Dùn Coillich. **Deer control and fence maintenance** is continuing. This year has seen both increased and improved fencing. Only 10-12 roe deer have been seen in the area and no red deer. Willie McGhee and Trish Waite attended a meeting of **The Heart of Scotland Forest Project**. This is a partnership with the John Muir Trust, Scottish Wildlife Trust, Forest Enterprise, Kynachan Estate and the Woodland Trust with the aim of creating native forests and connecting wildlife corridors. It is a very large project with some funding coming to the Trust for Dùn Coillich. **Natural History at Dùn Coillich**, of particular note was the Hen Harrier nest with four chicks. The RSPB satellite-tagged a female chick and as a result we now have a series of maps showing her flight routes and location. The Black Grouse

watch is continuing this year at Dùn Coillich lek with JMT, RSPB. **Website and Facebook.** Thanks were given to Alice Jarvis, Richard Rees and Ann Macintosh for their work in enhancing the Trust's website and Facebook page. In the coming year, John Marshall will join this IT group to investigate use of layered maps using GIS data.

Bill Hoare reported on progress concerning the **Lower Birks Field (Aberfeldy)**. Possible suggestions for use of the land include, community orchard, flower meadow, tree walks, mountain bike tracks, dog walking area – all of which are possible providing they meet the aims and objectives of the HPCLT constitution. Possible names for the site include Lower Birks Common (Commony), Poet's Field, Bard's Field. Discussions with the residents of Birks Brae are ongoing. The Primary school wish to visit. A number of surveys have been identified including soil, tree, archaeology(sp). Of concern are the lime trees which are allegedly 160 years old but have been badly cut back. Sandra Winter hoped the community would have a say in its use. Bill Hoare stressed the importance of getting community views. Bill Hoare reported on progress concerning **Keltneyburn Hydro Ltd** which was purchased by Green Highland Renewables(GHR) based in Perth. Legal work has been completed with the costs being met by GHR. The company are considering new engineering work to improve the maintenance of the site but this will not go ahead without the Trust's permission.

Because the Treasurer was unwell, the Chair introduced Tim Ambrose the Trust's external financial examiner to summarise the Trust's **financial situation**. Tim started his report with praise for the Trust, he said he found HPCLT a remarkable charity thanks to the trustees and volunteers who put in such a large amount of work. Tim explained that the accounts were more complicated this year due to the addition of a second column for the Project. The Trust has enough money to carry on as we are with good regular income from the hydro scheme and reserves that have been built up over the year. He recommended the accounts and asked members to approve them.

*6. Approval of Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year to 30 November 2016:* The document was approved as a whole (proposed by Julie Gardiner; seconded by Andrew Walker).

*7. Retirement and Election of Trustees:* James Anderson, Trish Waite and James Shorthouse retired as Trustees as at this AGM. Six valid nominations were received for new Trustees: Jeannie Grant, Ann Macintosh, Emma O'Shea, Richard Rees, Bobby Wardle, Kelsey Wilson. The Company Secretary confirmed that no elections necessary. The Chair thanked the retiring trustees

*8. Subscriptions:* no proposed change to subscription rates so they remain at £10 annually per household.

*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 appointed (Bill Hoare proposed, Trish Waite seconded).

*10. Any other competent business:* Richard Jarvis proposed that guided walks around Dùn Coillich should be organised to show off what has been achieved.

**The formal meeting adjourned at 14.55.**

..

The Chair introduced the Guest Speaker, Jon Hollingdale from Community Woodland Association whose talk on the work of the Association was enjoyed by all. As a thank you, the book 'Ravens over the Hill' by Robin Hull detailing the history of Dùn Coillich and was presented to him. There was time for a short Q & A afterwards, before tea, coffee and cakes were served.

**THESE MINUTES TO BE APPROVED AT AGM in MARCH 2018**