

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust
Incorporating the Dùn Coillich Project

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held in The Tryst, Pitlochry, 2.00pm Saturday 28 March 2015

Welcome and Introduction: The Chairman, Bill Hoare, welcomed about 40 people to the thirteenth AGM of the Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust.

1. Apologies: **Jim Anderson, Maisie Steven, Rob Coope, Andrew Tillet, Julie Gardiner, Nigel Hawkins, James Low, Willie McGhee, John Taylor, Harry Ross, Andrew Walker, Lesley Whitwood, Elizabeth Nicholson.**

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 22 March 2014 (circulated): Approved (proposed by Richard Paul; seconded by Rosie Hooper).

3. Matters arising; none

4. Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year to 30 November 2014 (circulated previously):

The report was projected onto the screen. The Chairman made some comments as follows:

The **Woodland Grant scheme** had progressed but there is a need for more progress and a thorough review will be undertaken. **Deer control and fence maintenance** is ongoing and essential. Some of the results from the trail cameras were displayed in the hall; they will be useful for monitoring the fence line.

Reinstatement of the **Beauly-Denny power line** route has just begun on Dun Coillich near Whitebridge.

Visitors from schools, colleges and organisations such as Cubs and Beavers have continued. They have an interesting time and are welcome. Thanks are given to Willie McGhee and Mike Riddell who are assisting us to apply for funding to employ a person on site, probably shared with John Muir Trust, to encourage and co-ordinate such visits and to help with maintenance.

Walking routes have been marked on the ground; maps are available in the hall. More markers are needed, also signs in the car parks.

There are some notable changes in **wildlife and biodiversity** on Dun Coillich. Some trees are mature enough to fruit and so to attract birds. Forty-five blackcock were counted on the lek this week; badgers and water voles have been recorded by the trail cameras (purchased with a grant from JMT, together with a moth trap)

We have a **website and Facebook**. Thanks are given to Alice Jarvis and Richard Paul respectively for setting up and maintaining these.

Memorials The stone seat looking across to Schiehallion, near a gate on the march with JMT is dedicated to Shirley Jones and has been wholeheartedly approved by her relatives.

The ashes of Patricia Troxel were scattered on the south side of Dun Coillich; where her estate funded supply and maintenance of 200 Scots pines. The hundred oaks planted in memory of Paul Jarvis are growing well.

The **centre of mainland Scotland** has been calculated to be on Dun Coillich. We plan to mark the position appropriately!

Conclusion: We have some way to go to meet our commitment to the Woodland Grant Scheme but we are optimistic that we shall do so. Forestry Commission staff are supportive and we liaise closely with them. Contractors planted 10,000 trees in spring 2014, together with 4000 or so by schools, groups and members. Twenty thousand trees have been ordered for planting this spring. We expect a visit from the Forestry Commission in 2015. We continue to liaise with the Woodland Trust and JMT, with whom we co-operate closely on shared management intentions including possible employment of a Project officer.

We hope that SSE and Balfour Beatty will complete site reinstatement at Whitebridge in May 2015. The Chairman finished by giving sincere thanks to Trustees, spouses, members and all those who visited Dun Coillich, which is becoming more and more interesting and attractive to people and wildlife.

5. Approval of Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year to 30 November 2014: The document was approved as a whole (proposed by Elspeth Paul; seconded by Loretta Davis-Reynolds).

6. Retirement and Election of Trustees: Trustees Andy Pointer, Ian Wilkinson and Harry Ross were required by the Constitution to retire. They were eligible for re-election and were re-elected, together with Margaret Jarvis and Gordon Stronach.

7. Subscriptions: It was proposed and agreed that subscription rates would remain unchanged at £10 annually per household. The point was made that formal membership is necessary as numbers of members are often a requirement in funding applications.

8. 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.

9 Award of Honorary Life Membership: No awards were made.

Any other competent business: TF proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for the immense amount of work he had done during the year. This was acclaimed by all.

The formal meeting adjourned at 14.40

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The Chairman then introduced the speaker, Ron Greer; his talk was entertaining, thought-provoking and informative and was enjoyed by all.

THESE MINUTES APPROVED AT AGM 19TH MARCH 2016