

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust
Scottish Charity Number: SC032801

**Minutes of Trustees' Meeting held at Laurenbank Aberfeldy
on Monday 24th September, 2018 at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Andy Walker (chairman), Margaret Jarvis (minutes), James Banks, Izzy Filor, Bill Hoare, Mike Nixon, Richard Paul, Richard Rees, Trish Waite.

1. *Apologies:* Tim Fison, Heather Hamilton, John Marshall, Willie McGhee, Bobby Wardle.
2. *Welcome to new Trustees:* James Banks and Izzy Filor, both co-opted, were welcomed.

3. *Minutes of previous meetings (5th April; 9th April, non-quorate; 13th April):* Approved (proposed by BH, seconded by RR). The replacement meeting of 13th April was convened to conduct urgent post-AGM business. A meeting on 30th May was non-quorate; no further summer meetings were arranged; instead an information update was circulated on 9th August

At this point BH told the meeting the sad news of the sudden death of Simon Pepper on 18th September. He will convey our condolences to Simon's wife and family.

4. *Matters arising:*

None not covered elsewhere.

5. *Trustees :*

Elected: JM,MN; Re-elected BH; co-opted JB, IF.

IF was one of the second group of Rural Skills trainees. She now has a one-year post as a Conservation Ranger with JMT and is studying part-time for a Masters degree in Conservation Management. James Banks is Senior Tutor at the Field Studies Council centre at Kindrogan. Emma OShea and Kelsey Wilson have resigned because of difficulties in attending meetings. JB was invited to contact AW to arrange for a guided tour of Dun Coillich (IF is already familiar with it).

Action: JB

6. *Thrift Shop:*

BH will run the Aberfeldy Thrift Shop for HPCLT for one week from Saturday 29th September. There are two aims: to raise funds which are unrestricted and also to raise our profile. Information about HPCLT will be displayed. BH had designed a Treasure hunt in which the map of Dun Coillich is divided into 500 numbered squares; the numbers corresponding with the habitat features at that position. This was thought to be better suited to the AGM than to the Thrift shop. More volunteers are needed, as are suitable items for tombola.

7. *Standardising the subscription year:*

Subscriptions will now apply to a calendar year; this will allow reminders to be given. Only paid-up members will be eligible to vote. Lapsed members will be invited to re-join. The idea of issuing membership cards was rejected.

Action: AW

8. *Financial report:*

MN had circulated an income/expenditure spreadsheet (1.12.17 – 19.09.18).
A donation of £500 had been received from Glasgow children's hospital.
Capitalisation of wayleave payments (SSE): the "wayleave" income of £4803.35 was noted.
In converting wayleave payments to Deeds of Servitude, HPCLT is due to receive in total approximately £9,000. The legal fees for these transactions should be paid direct to J&H Mitchell. BH will check.

Action: BH

In response to discussion about reducing legal fees: could we do some of the work ourselves? Should we ask J&H Mitchell for an itemised bill? The point was made that it is our duty as Trustees to keep costs down. To be considered further.

Action: AW

9. Project Officer's report:

HH was unwell and was sorry she had not been able to produce her usual report. A new group of Rural Skills students had begun training.

10. Forestry and Deer culling report:

Construction of the fence along the Allt Mor, as part of the Heart of Scotland Forest project, has been delayed because Rab Robertson will not now be erecting it. Following further tendering, WMcG is in discussion with another fencing contractor, who is liaising with the contractor in charge of the hydro scheme over delivery of materials.

11. Dun Coillich Management Group:

Rob Coope had shot one red deer hind in March and one roe buck in September.
WMcG plans to provide an updated DC Management Plan in October.

Action: WMcG

BH showed the meeting a security camera which is to be placed in the hut together with an appropriate notice.

Action: BH/AW

12 Whitebridge Car Park :

The planning conditions originally set by P and K council in 2013, concerning numbers of trees etc, have been met. BH has sent a report; however no checks seem to be required.

13. Wee Birks Field:

There is a fallen tree blocking the access path from the A827 (town) following the recent storm.

Native flowering trees are to be planted, and two picnic benches installed: total cost ca £2000. BH had prepared some sites for the tree planting.

Trustee Jeannie Grant is a ranger with PKC Green Space team. They have a Management Plan for The Birks as a whole; although this excludes the Wee Birks Field, it makes sense for a combined approach.

Action: JG

14. 'Restoring Native Woodland':

AW had written and circulated a paper on this subject because there is no explanation on our website as to why we are planting trees on DC. He was applauded for doing this. IF advised that Garth Wood Wilding Project had recently become the seventh partner in the Heart of Scotland Forest Partnership (see <https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/latest/news/1508-heart-of-scotland-forest-partnership-welcomes-new-member>). There followed a discussion of the structure and operation of Deer Management Groups. The next meeting of the Breadalbane

Deer Management Group is on Friday 26th October: IF would be attending for the John Muir Trust and offered to represent HPCLT as well.

Action: IF

15. Keltneyburn Hydroscheme remedial works :

Work has continued as planned, after fledging of the nearby hen harriers. AW/BH have been sent photos and updates. An additional pipe is to be laid alongside the original one for the first 600 metres and the weir is to be made more self-cleaning. Generation should be improved thereby benefitting HPCLT's payment. The track to the site, made obvious by the pale-coloured rock, is to be darkened.

AOCB:

There will be tree-planting days for JMT on 29.09.18 and 27.10.18. Meet at Braes of Foss car park.

The 'scrapes' in front of the hut are becoming overgrown and need some clearing-out, by hand, not machine. JB had experience of this and would advise.

Action: JB

RR reported that the HPCLT Drop Box account was closing. There followed a discussion about data storage. BH has a large dataset but is uncertain about the best way to store it. RP noted some benefits of Google Drive and will discuss with RR, avoiding high costs.

Action: RR/RP

Next Meeting: provisionally 26th November; AW will check available dates with Trustees.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm with thanks to Bill and Sue for hospitality