

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Minutes of Meeting of Trustees held on Monday 2 February 2009 at 7:15 p.m.
At the Weem Hotel

Present, Gordon Evans, Tim Fison (Chairman), Julie Gardiner, Robin Hull, Paul Jarvis, Margaret Jarvis, Ann Partridge, Richard Paul and Clare Thomas.

1. Apologies: Rob Coope, Bill Hoare.

2. Minutes of previous meeting of 24 November 2008: Approved.

3. Matters Arising:

MJ and JG will buy wildflower books for the OEF with the money given by the Perthshire Walking Group. **Action: MJ and JG**

Planning application for the Glengoulandie chalets has now been approved, subject to some conditions.

The Rural Studies group at Pitlochry High School is too busy at present to do work on DC, but RP will say when the group is available and which tasks would suit. **Action: RP**

CT reported that 40 canes have been bought to mark archaeological sites on the south side of DC, between the Allt Mhor and the summit, where trees are to be planted in 2009. These sites consist of shieling huts and sunken grazing tracks. The aim is to protect any archaeological evidence in and around these sites, and the visual impact of these sites, including lines of sight between individual sites, as these will be needed when plans are made of the sites. Canes will be put in position in March. Individual huts will each have a cane with two pieces of red and white tape; additional canes will be used to define the area of a group of huts. Grazing tracks will be identified by two lines of canes, each with one piece of tape. No trees should be planted within 10 metres of a line or group of canes. An article for the HPCLT newsletter on this subject has been prepared.

A new strainer at the layby near the Schiehallion road junction has been put up. Approximately fifteen red deer and several roe have been shot since the last meeting. There are probably 20 roe still on DC ground. TF has obtained a quote of £2,000 from Coventry Fencing, Auchterarder, for sufficient rylock to attach to the existing fence along the FC boundary. He suggested that if we are serious about repairing our fences, we need to obtain the necessary equipment: for some £200 we could buy wire strainers, wire cutters, gripple pullers, gripples and spirals. It was agreed that TF should talk to RC about asking the Forestry Commission to assist with our common fence line. **Action: TF and RC**

The creation of a deer-friendly one-way exit is being discussed with Jimmy Stewart, with a view to doing it while machinery is in the area of the hydro intake. A suitable design and site have yet to be decided.

The two new stiles for the DC-Schiehallion march are being installed soon. **Action PJ** Construction of the new bridge over the Goulandie burn is still being discussed between BH and Jimmy Stewart. JS remains keen to help with this project.

Action on arranging access to the OEF is pending BH's return. **Action BH. Those who wish to be on the key holders list should let BH know.**

PJ has had no reply about fire insurance for the trees planted on DC. He will try again. **Action PJ**

A cheque of £100 has been received from the Scottish and Southern Electricity Board for wayleave.

RP reported that the debate still continues about whether the gap between the Cairngorm National Park and the Lowland NP should be included in a NP.

Two new members have signed up: Malcolm and Margaret Gosling. Their names and addresses should be submitted to GE for labels for the membership mailing for the AGM.

Action MJ

4. AGM on 7 March 2009 :

a. **Notices:** BH has prepared notices about the AGM, which will be distributed around the area by Members and Trustees. **Action all Trustees.** BH has also prepared a press release about the AGM, which will shortly be placed in the following papers: Breadalbane Quair, Comment, News Round North, The Bridge, and Killin News. Nearer the date, the PA and the Courier will also be advised. Copies will also be sent to each primary and secondary school in Highland Perthshire, as well as to the John Muir Trust and WWF.

b. **Agenda:** PJ will prepare the agenda, for approval by Colin Liddell and Trustees. The agenda and other information must be mailed by 14 February 2009. **Action: PJ**

The AGM will be held in the Molteno Hall, Fortingall on Saturday 7 March 2009, starting at 2:30 p.m. with exhibits and displays. A short business meeting will follow at 3:00 p.m., before the talk by Alan Stewart, author of *Wildlife Crime*, entitled Wildlife Crime in Highland Perthshire. Refreshments will follow the talk.

Details of the arrangements were agreed as follows:

Lap top photos and table maps display: **BH**

Information on the SWT Wildlife Week: **TF**

Display of certificate and wooden sculpture award at the “Big Tree Country Awards 2008 – Wildlife in the Community” competition. **PJ**

Information on gold panning in the Goulandie Burn: **JG**

Archaeology at DC display: **CT**

Information sheets from the OEF: **RH**

Screens to be supplied: **BH 2; PJ 1**

RH will ask Malcolm Appleby if he is able to donate a piece of jewellery for the raffle again this year. **Action: RH.** It was agreed that Malcolm Appleby should be made a life-time honorary member of HPCLT, in gratitude for his generosity to DC. This award will be announced at the AGM. RH will tell MA in advance. **Action RH** Liz and Tony Hodgson of Edradour Lodge will be invited to make a display at the AGM. **Action: RP**

The Highland Safaris will be asked if they would like to make a display about offsetting carbon footprints. PJ will talk to them. **Action PJ**

RP will suggest to BH that he might do a stand on the Bird Atlas. **Action: RP**

Wine and juice will be served as refreshments. **Action: BH**

BH has arranged for parking in the adjacent field. **TF will be parking attendant.**

There will be a membership collection/renewal point. **GE and MJ.** The Trustees agreed that there would be no change in the membership dues for the next year.

c. **Retirals/New Trustees:** PJ read out a resignation letter from BH, who has decided to retire because of ill-health. All Trustees expressed much regret and noted that BH's retirement will be a great loss to the board and to HPCLT. RH also announced his retirement from the board, saying that he did not wish to be co-opted again at the AGM, since his project, the OEF, is now complete. (RH had been co-opted at the last AGM). The Trustees expressed great regret that RH was also leaving, and gave a vote of thanks to him and to BH for all their hard work. MJ is up for re-election and wishes to stand again. She is nominated by GE and seconded by JG. For new Trustees, Roger Wilson has said that he might be interested, but not at present, due to work commitments. As far as we know, three people have been nominated as new Trustees: Margaret Gimblett, nominated by RH and seconded by AP; June Riddell, nominated by TF and seconded by MJ; and, Ben Henderson, nominated by TF and seconded by JG.

- d. Report on **Trustees' Activities**: PJ has received written reports about most of the activities for incorporation into the annual report document. Still to come is information about Relations with schools and the Keltneyburn Hydro Scheme. He also needs information about relationships with schools. **Action: PJ, CT and TF.**
- e. **Financial Statement**: The Treasurer provided three documents about the financial status of the HPCLT, and these are attached to these minutes. Current balances are:
- | | | |
|------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| £63,125.28 | Reserve Fund | |
| £5,417.47 | OEF | |
| 841.80 | Current account | £57,000 loan still to be repaid. |

f. **Newsletter**: JG asked for an article on the OEF to be included in the newsletter. **Action: RH** TF gave two CDs of photos from the beavers' visit and of Kinloch Rannoch primary school for the newsletter. PJ will send JG the articles received for the report on Trustee's activities, which can form the basis for articles in the newsletter. **Action: PJ** The website also has articles that might be useful for the newsletter. **Please note: Deadline for articles for the newsletter is February 13, 2009.**

5. Keltneyburn Hydro Scheme: PJ reported that work began on December 19, 2008. The contracts are still not final because the Edinburgh lawyers had done little with revisions of the draft contracts CL sent them in September last, but they are trying to finalise them now. The pipes are now being moved by road and helicopter. One pipe dropped by a helicopter slid down a slope onto our fence with Schiehallion, but it has since been removed and a temporary repair made to the fence. J. Stewart has verbally promised to do a proper repair later. Although work has started, contracts have not yet been signed.

As regards the financial proposal for the lease of our ground by KBH, PJ explained that there has been significant inflation since indicative offers were put forward in February 2005. The pipeline landlords have agreed a rate per metre of pipe a little more than double the rate proposed in 2005, but we have not yet been able to agree a comparable increase in the rental for use of our water and ground. It was agreed in 2005 that our rental should comprise two components; one component for hosting the weirs and intake facilities, and a second component, dependent on the annual amount of generation, because of our responsibilities towards the ecology of the burn. Figures for both components, taking into account the inflation since February 2005 are currently under negotiation with the agent acting for KBH. PJ presented the figures involved and there was a common consensus that the offers we had received were in no way comparable to the offers received and accepted by the pipeline landlords, and were consequently not acceptable to us. A new offer received just a few hours earlier was also deemed to be inconsistent with the offers accepted by the pipeline landlords and was also considered to be inadequate. There was a strong discussion, some trustees advocating that if there was no further improvement in the offer, we should involve our lawyer in the process.

After further discussion, the Trustees agreed unanimously not to accept the rentals on offer and asked of PJ that he should make our views on this clearly known to the agent acting for KBH. **Action: PJ**

6. WGS: Some planting will be done in about a month's time. Plants have been ordered: 4000 Scots pine from Christies of Fochabers and 4000 birch from Woodbury of Glenisla. JG will indicate where we are to plant them – mostly on the south-west sides of the hill. Volunteers are required to take responsibility for the planting of around 1000 each. When the time comes, JG and PJ will show people when and where to plant, and the screefing in process. It is hoped that it will be possible for the schools to be involved. **Action: JG and PJ**

7. Risk Assessment and Health and Safety: After a visit last year of children from Rannoch primary school, there was some criticism of risk assessment procedures. After discussion, it was agreed that HPCLT needs to have its own risk assessment document that can be used in conjunction with those produced by visiting school groups. JG will produce a generic one for us. We will also discuss this with Stewart Downie of Perth College. **Action: JG**

8. Any Other Business: Note that all documentation concerned with the AGM has to be mailed not later than Thursday 13th February to be received 21 clear days before the AGM. Any 'extras' to go in the envelopes with the formal notification must be received at Duireaskin, before then. Nomination proposals for Trustees must be received at the offices of the Company Secretary not less than seven clear days before the AGM, i.e. by 5 p.m. on Friday 27th February.

9. Future Meetings: AGM, Saturday 7 March 2009 at 2:30 p.m. Molteno Hall, Fortingall. Further meeting dates will be set at the AGM

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.