

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust
Scottish Charity Number: SC032801

Minutes of Trustees' Meeting held at Cuilmore, Kinloch Rannoch
Thursday 2nd October 2014 at 7.00 pm.

Present: Bill Hoare (chairman), Richard Paul, Andy Pointer, Trish Waite, Ian Wilkinson.
Advisors: Julie Gardiner, Margaret Jarvis (minutes), Tim Fison, Willie McGhee

Apologies: Robin Hull, Harry Ross, Jim Low, Sandra Winter, Innes Smith

Minutes of previous meeting on 8th August : Approved unanimously

Matters arising: IW had sprayed path to the hut with a successful result.
MJ had had no reply in response to e mails about a visit to DC by a group from Kindrogan.
No new figures on deer culling. Deer count not yet done. Rob Coope reported that he had walked the hill fortnightly and seen hardly any deer. There was no evidence of negative impact and trees were generally growing strongly.
AP agreed to assess the feasibility of adding gutters to the hut to decrease dampness. **ACTION AP**
A brushcutter has been purchased, to be kept in John Taylors locked shed, together with a haversack (from the thrift shop) to carry accessories.
AP apologised for not yet having done the maps of paths on DC because of pressure of work and emergency family problems. He will have them done in good time for the spring walking season. **ACTION AP**
There have been regular reports from the police about the hut break-in, but no developments.
The damaged roadside fence has been repaired; a few posts at drainage points are still needed.

Finance

Up-to-date accounts were tabled. Current accounts total £12,000 – this would be available for tree purchase and springtime planting. IW would prefer the way-leave payments to come direct to the treasurer and not the Company Secretary. Colin Liddell has also suggested this. To keep legal costs to a minimum, Treasurer to arrange this with SSE. **ACTION IW.** BH will ask Jim Low, experienced in these matters, to take forward SSE's offer to commute of these wayleave payments at the best possible rate. **ACTION BH, JL**

AGM 2015

This will be in March, as usual. BH had circulated a list of previous venues and speakers, to aid discussion. The Tryst at Pitlochry was agreed as the next venue. BH will contact **ACTION BH.** A good display will be needed.

It was agreed that Ron Greer would be the first choice of speaker; Mike Daniels and/or Liz Auty from JMT on 'Living Landscapes as second choice. A recent paper by M Daniels on deer was noted, and David Hetherington, Cairngorms National Park, on reintroductions etc (suggested by WMcGh as an excellent speaker) as third choice. **ACTION BH**

Trustees BH circulated constitutional requirements for resignation of current Trustees, some of whom are eligible for re-election. He asked all Trustees to make an effort to recruit 'new blood', especially the young and strong. **ACTION ALL** He suggested a minor constitutional change such that the one-third requirement could be rounded down as well as up. If any change is made, will also make one proposed by Company Secretary in relation to Mental Health (Disc) Act 2013.

Updates

Forestry Commission visit Neil McFarlane and Harriet Lindsay had visited on 16th September. BH will meet NMcF at Battleby after the FC move there is complete. Details of the exact area visited will be e-mailed to BH. They noted there had been good progress. They commented upon regeneration, caterpillar damage on some pines (not pine beauty moth – (probably saw-fly larvae Rob C)). They saw no deer; noted that the trees were not 'under-nourished'; and noticed the fence work. They noted that tree growth had been better in heather than in grass.

Willie McGhee visit on Sunday 28th September WMcGh had seen one roe deer. He gave a detailed report on how well the trees he had seen were doing. As a result of his observations he recommended planting mostly pine, birch and eared willow in the less fertile areas and restricting other species to the better ground on the east side. The planting areas need to be mapped with a GPS, and marked on the ground. Species and numbers for planting next spring should be decided after the meeting with Neil McFarlane and ordered. Because no SRDP scheme is yet in place tree nurseries should have plenty of stock. JG said she would probably use the same nursery as last year, in Forfar, who were good. **ACTION JG**

Grant applications. HLF, Griffin and Garfield Weston had all been applied to. Griffin had given no reason for rejection. HLF were 'minded to approve' if match funding was in place. WMcGh suggested resubmitting for a one-year project. TW suggested inviting the local Griffin Fund committee members to visit Dun Coillich. WMcGH will continue his efforts, for which he was thanked by Trustees.

Social media Nothing new

Visiting groups Geography students from Breadalbane Academy came on Sept.22nd ; they made hydrological measurements. Kenmore Primary and KR Scouts and Cubs may arrange visits. RP will talk to Pitlochry High School, which has a new Head Teacher, about further visits. **ACTION RP**

Work to be done

Tree nursery .There will be a joint work party with JMT on Thursday Nov 6th. Trees from the nursery will be planted as JG suggested, above the head dyke northwards to Whitebridge, below the enclosure.

Weeding inside tree tubes, general maintenance of stakes and tubes, is important but maybe not exciting

Rob Coope had promised to make a stand for the fire beaters. **ACTION RC**

The gate at Whitebridge needs attention; it is not deer-proof.

Fencing. BH has ordered chicken wire and will take it to the hut. **ACTION BH**

Walking routes. More frequent posts are needed in some areas. BH, TF and RP will add posts, starting with the route from the car park to Whitebridge, once its routing was confirmed. AP & WMcGh felt that it was presently wrong.

ACTION TF, RP, & AP. Some of the DC routes are part of the PKC Core path network. PKC will be progressively signposting Core paths, liaising with land owners beforehand. They will propose and provide signposts(2m) and waymarkers and show paths on their website. Land owners will be contacted via community councils.

Work Parties. A proposal that HPCLT should have a regular date for work parties was agreed, and the decision taken to begin at the AGM with a fixed date of the first Sunday every month

JMT liaison Joint work party dates need to be published in advance(see addenda below). These involve JMT, HPCLT, & SWT. Water voles have been recorded on the cameras now in place. Liz Auty has a map of position of evidence of water voles on DC and Schiehallion.

Pylon line and Whitebridge car park

No change. BH has still to talk to Jacque Smith of Whitebridge cottage about the car park planting plan. **ACTION BH**

A O B

BH tabled a draft ‘Walking on Dun Coillich’ A4 sheet for visiting walkers to go on the back of “freebie” paths maps. He suggested having a water-proof leaflet dispenser (cost *ca* £20). No decision was made

The surplus telegraph poles from the car park have been taken away by Dunalastair estate, who have donated £100

Hamish Nicolson has taken photographs from fixed points on DC every year. He has now handed over 500 photos and a map of the sites to BH for use by HPCLT.

BH proposed a welcome letter, Membership card, & CD for new life members, and something similar but simpler to new members. He will develop this idea. **ACTION BH.**

BH’s regular ‘mini-update’ emailed in between Trustees meetings, was approved. He will extend the list of recipients to all members (IW will prove an up-to-date list.) **ACTION BH, IW**

One member, Nigel Hawkins is paying £10 monthly by standing order and will soon qualify for life membership! The treasurer has not yet succeeded in contacting him.

Addenda:

Deer count has now been arranged for 10 am on 25th October. Meet at Dun Coillich carpark. As many people as possible are needed to walk in a line and assess deer numbers and tree growth.

Joint Working Parties (HPCLT, JMT, SWT). Anybody and everybody welcome – bring a friend.

Nov 6th - Fencing and other tasks which may include tree planting and checking trees in tubes. Meet at the Dun Coillich car park at 10am. Led by Richard Paul

Nov 8th - Tree cutting/ brash hedge construction East Schiehallion. Meet Braes of Foss car park 10am. Led by Liz Auty

Nov 11th – potential work party at Keltneyburn Nature reserve – to be confirmed.

Dec 4th – Brash hedge construction and fence removal at East Schiehallion. Meet at Braes of Foss car park 10am (with Mulled wine/ juice and mince pies). Led by Liz Auty

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm, with thanks to Margaret & Ian for refreshments.

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 2nd December 2014, at 7.00 pm

At Duireaskin, Aberfeldy