

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Scottish Charity Number: SC032801

**Minutes of Trustees' Meeting held at Visitor Hut  
on Tuesday 3 June 2014 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Bill Hoare (chairman), Richard Paul, Andy Pointer, Harry Ross, Trish Waite, Ian Wilkinson.  
Advisors: Margaret Jarvis (minutes), Tim Fison

Apologies: Jim Low, Innes Smith, Sandra Winter

Minutes of previous meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014 : Approved

Matters arising: Liz Auty (JMT) had suggested a 'Living Landscapes' joint volunteer day. After an explanation by RP that HPCLT, JMT, the Kynachan Estate and possibly SWT were linked loosely for possible conservation gain the decision was made to agree.

AP undertook to add Liz Auty's paths and other information [ stile (E31) kissing gate (N4) memorial bench (C40) stile (A16) stile and kissing gate (U,V22)] to his HPCLT Master Map from which maps for notice boards and handouts can be drawn. AP will take over the production of the map. The map of routes on DC can now be printed. BH will email the text to AP; BH will take to Danscot;

**ACTION BH, AP**

BH had spoken to Robin Hull about his proposed link with Breadalbane Heritage Society but this was no longer considered urgent and no action will be taken.

TF had received little response to his emailed suggestion of a celebration of the new footbridge.

Update on deer, planting, WGS etc : No female deer may now be shot. Males can be shot, (one buck recently shot) AP reported 100 red deer seen on the far side of Schiehallion. There will be a count of red deer by helicopter in October/November for the Deer Management Group, but we need one, including roe deer, before that. BH will ask RC to discuss with Innes Smith organising another deer count. **ACTION BH.** No recent sightings of red deer on DC had been reported but a roe had been photographed by the camera at the badger sett on Dun Beag.

The planters, Mitch and Stevie, had planted 10, 000 trees, mostly on the west and south sides. BH thought that the planting was generally satisfactory. However, Willie McGhee advises that stakes and tubes should be used for all trees. This is not thought by BH and others to be practicable. And all deer should be culled as a priority.

There was discussion of the range of possible outcomes of our WGS; these range from our having to repay all the grants already received to receipt of all potential grants, if all FC criteria are met. Partial meeting of FC criteria might result in forgoing some or all of deferred/outstanding grants No decision was possible nor yet necessary.

Two hundred pines had been planted close to the south side of Dun Beag, funded by the lady whose ashes had been scattered there in May. BH and TW were present at the ceremony. A friend, Lou Radford, will write about this for 'Comment'. **ACTION TW**

TW had planted out about 100 trees from the nursery on the east-facing slope; birch, rowan, hazel and some ash, over a period of weeks. It took her about 5 hours to plant 30 trees.

BH emphasised that the next planting season must be organised in good time and be done over a shorter period, so by more than two planters. It is essential that we talk with Mat Young's (FC) successor. BH will discuss with Julie Gardiner arranging such a meeting on site.. As many of us as possible should be there. **ACTION BH and ALL**

TF asked if fertiliser had been used. At the beginning it was not, because of late delivery. Subsequently, rock phosphate was used. We still have unused fertiliser (albacote).

MJ mentioned that she has a quad bike and trailer which can be used when needed. AP could fetch these and RP can drive on site

**ACTION AP, RP (when necessary).**

RP asked for a few people to finish the job, not a big one, of adding chicken wire along the bottom of the fence by the black cock lek, after the chicks had fledged. He thought that a fence to prevent deer access from White bridge Cottage, a length of about 500m, might be needed.

Treasurer's report: IW tabled an up-to-date statement of accounts. We have funding to pay for substantial planting

TF asked where the rock phosphate cost was shown. IW will check **ACTION IW**

The insurance company had been changed after some shopping around.

A major source of HPCLT income is the Keltneyburn Hydroscheme; this is currently affected by a design fault (the designer is no longer in business) which limits the maximum power output to 1.5Mw; repairs may be attempted when the weather is drier later this summer.

Grant applications update (Griffin, HLF, JMT Conservation Fund etc) : There was no news from Willie McGhee.

Use of social media to benefit HPCLT: BH asked that all should look at the website, suggest improvements and provide feedback to our webmaster (AJ). RP has set up a Face book group as an 'open site'. Pictures have been added this evening from the hut. The notice needs updating; the map of marked routes will be placed there when available – **ACTION BH**.

Visiting groups: A group of Beavers had a successful visit on 5<sup>th</sup> May. They had enjoyed pond-dipping; we now have a pond-dipping kit in the hut. They had planted willow cuttings and had walked up to the head dyke. The Cubs will also come; there is no date for this yet.

Geography students from Breadalbane Academy, led by Phil Russell, had visited to do survey work. It was found to be a valuable location for them.

A planned visit by Kenmore Primary has been postponed until after the summer holidays. MJ will check when a group from Kindrogan Field Centre, leader Heather McAffie, will come. **ACTION MJ**

Outstanding Actions:

Whitebridge: Balfour Beattie have done nothing and SSE are not forthcoming with any date. We have to produce a planting plan as soon as possible, with plants not too tall, nor too sophisticated. MJ and TW will do this. **ACTION MJ, TW**.

Garth: A meeting with Liz Auty is scheduled for 26<sup>th</sup> June.

AOB: IW requested that the limit on cheques which require one signatory, not two, be increased. Trustees, and all signatories present, agreed a higher limit of £2000. IW will investigate the possibility of on-line banking, which would be much more convenient for him.

RP said that Pat Stocker would like to join, and possibly would be willing to be nominated as a Trustee. IW will contact her **ACTION IW**.

RP announced a SWT meeting at the limestone pavement on Schiehallion at 11 am on July 5<sup>th</sup>. MJ will ask Faith Anstey, an expert botanist, if she will come **ACTION MJ**

Logo: TF had spoken to Robin Hull who would ask Malcolm Appleby about a possible design. A token limit of £50 was agreed.

A camera had been purchased with Conservation Trust funding RP will take charge of it; TF will take charge of the moth trap, also purchased.

Date of next meeting:

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August

At the hut (OEF) at 7.00 pm