

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Minutes of Meeting of Trustees held on Tuesday, 3rd October 2005, at Duireaskin, Aberfeldy, at 7.15 p.m.

Present: Gordon Evans, Tim Fison, Julie Gardiner, Bill Hoare, Marjorie Keddie, Paul Jarvis (Chairman), Innes Smith, Margaret Jarvis (Minutes Secretary).

1. Apologies: Lynnette Borradaile, Philip Campbell, Hamish Nicholson, Clare Thomas.

2. Minutes of previous meeting on 23rd August 2005 : approved

3. The first agenda item was a short talk by Jeanie Skoyles, Perth and Kinross Ranger Service, about liaison with schools. However, Ms Skoyles did not attend the meeting.

4. Matters arising: LB had circulated the SNH document on bracken; this is a well-balanced account of control methods. IS commented that sprays are not allowed in RSS areas. He suggested allowing time for a thorough discussion about bracken control during the winter. **Action: Add to a winter agenda.**

PJ had discussed the positioning of gates with Andrew Campbell.

There had been no further progress on steel girders for the bridge. BH will be in touch with John Fry. **Action BH**

There was no report on school involvement from LB, as she was unable to be present. **Action LB**

Car Park: PJ had contacted Ben Campbell, who had so far not been to the site. PJ had followed up on Robbie Gordon's suggestion of further funding for the car park from 'Forward Scotland' (under the aggregate levy). There is a 19 page form to fill in, accompanied by 20 pages of guidance. The deadline is 23rd November. In response to a request from PJ, TF offered to look through this. **Action TF.**

Ron Youngman, the local bird recorder, had criticised some of the mound positions for tree-planting. Compromise had resolved any problems. JG explained that two mounds had been mistakenly placed in flushes: these had been cancelled. There were also some (on about half a hectare) which might have detracted from the views of the limestone areas; these had also been cancelled.

PJ, PC, and BH had been to the Schiehallion Core Group meeting at which there had been a good exchange of views.

HN had ascertained from Russell Coope that the wood from the old fank would not be suitable for the construction of otter holts.

PJ reported that HPCLT is now a member of the Community Woodlands Association The CWA Newsletter will be circulated by email. **Action MJ.**

5. Organisation and Chairperson procedure:

Suggestions had been circulated by email (however, PJ had received only part). After some discussion it was agreed to adopt these formally at the next Trustees' meeting. **IT IS THEREFORE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT THAT AS MANY TRUSTEES AS POSSIBLE ARE PRESENT.**

6. Newsletter:

JG had just collected this from the printer. She was congratulated on an excellent job. The contributors were also thanked. MJ will mail to paid-up members and distribute to Tourist Information and the Aberfeldy library. **Action MJ**

7. Liaison with other groups.

JG and IS had met with a group from Amulree (the Windfarm Action Group). They were considering registering interest in a Community purchase of part of Griffin forest, possibly acting as a sub-group of HPCLT. JG was in favour of this as it would mean that HPCLT expanded into other areas than Dun Coillich. JG was authorised to get more information about the registering procedure. Andy Wightman's web site was a suggested source. The group had suggested a meeting with Trustees and IS had emphasised to them that they should bring full information to any such meeting. **Action JG**

8. Publicity:

PJ and MJ missed the deadline for the September 'Comment' but will prepare an article for a subsequent issue. **Action PJ and MJ.** The importance of publicity was emphasised. PC will be responsible for this after re-organisation.

9. Rejoining and subscriptions:

GE reported that there are now 97 paid-up members, 36 are new members . There are 20 members still to pay and 24 whose membership has expired. GE will send a membership renewal reminder out with the Newsletter. **Action** one corporate member, and three honorary members. Sixty-one of these are renewals and **GE**

10. Signs:

PC had circulated a report by email. A decision was deferred until PC can be here.

11. Fence maintenance, work parties:

BH had published a date for a work party (15th October) in the Newsletter. In addition, BH, TF, PJ (and possibly GE) will have a work session repairing the fence. BH will email details **Action BH.**

12. Report from Bird hide/Observation/Information Facility Group:

The group comprises Robin Hull, BH, Russell Coope, Wendy Mattingley and Malcolm Appleby. The group has had one formal meeting. As a result of this meeting, a first phase of 'begging' letters has been sent out. Substantial donations have resulted. A broad range of design types has been considered but the time for decision is far away. There will be a meeting on site with RSPB and possibly others on 21st October at which advice on the scrapes and footbridge will be sought.

13. RSS: JG pointed out the need to decide the long-term management , with a sub-group to organise this. PJ reported poor survival, possibly as a result of too much competition, of the trees planted beyond the electric fence,

13. WGS, deer:

Four contractors had been invited to tender for planting. The three tenders so far received were similar. JG asked for help to make a decision so that responsibility was shared. **PJ, TF, AP and LB** will be involved. JG to email them. **Action JG**

JG said that Christie Elite were supplying the bulk of the birch, , from mid-October to early November; Glen Isla would deliver in mid-November; and Christie Elite would deliver the pine later – this is better planted in spring.

BH had seen only two deer – one roe, one red – recently. Next week's fence repair will allow survey of a large area.

15 Any other business:

Pylon line: Colin Liddell had advised that a way leave agreement would not require a ballot of HPCLT members. However, a Deed of Servitude, which would be sought if a way leave was opposed, would require such a ballot. We were not at this stage yet, and to oppose would not be a good use of funds. GE reminded Trustees of the need to change the requirement for a 75% majority of the membership in any ballot. The Electricity Board had requested pedestrian access in November/December in order to survey. BH was authorised to agree to this but will point out our concern about possible impact on the RSS area.(BH is of the opinion that we would receive compensation for any loss of SEERAD money).PJ thought it advisable to join with LINK on this issue because of the small size of HPCLT. JG would like to oppose in principle. **Action BH**

PJ intimated that he now has a projector and screen available for use by HPCLT .

TF suggested that fixed point photographs should be taken to record changes in the vegetation on Dun Coillich. A sub-group will take this forward. **Action deferred.**

Date of next meeting: Wednesday 7th December at Duireaskin, 7.15 p.m.