

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust  
**Scottish Charity Number: SC032801**

**Minutes of Trustees' Meeting held at Dalnashian, Keltneyburn**  
**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Andy Walker (chairman), Margaret Jarvis (minutes), Tim Fison, Julie Gardiner, Heather Hamilton, Bill Hoare, John Marshall, Willie McGhee, Mike Nixon, Richard Paul, Andy Pointer, Bobby Wardle, Ian Wilkinson.

1: Apologies: Ann Macintosh, Emma O'Shea, Richard Rees, Trish Waite

2. Co-option of MN as a Trustee approved unanimously. A motion that MN can act as a signatory on the HPCLT bank account was also approved unanimously; this is a requirement imposed by RBS.

3 Minutes of previous meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2017: approved

4: Matters arising.

*Basil Death fund:* £3000 grant awarded to Rural Skills Project. The Fund Chairman has been invited to the graduation of the next group of trainees. In response to a further request, the web site now has photos and brief biographies of eight Trustees/Advisors ready to be published when complete. Those who have not yet submitted their details were encouraged to do so. The decision not to take part in the Orkney International Science Festival has been made.

The Forestry Commission will match fund any grant from the Community Environment Challenge Fund towards a composting toilet.

5: Financial Report: the financial report (his final one) was circulated by IW. The balance in the business account is £14,154 and in the project account £7064. IW will now hand over to MN.

WMcG will check invoices with IW in connection with grant application to SSE.

**ACTION: IW, WMcG**

6: Forestry and deer culling report: WMcG reported that one roe deer had been caught on the camera trap. Rob Coope has not seen many roe deer but will continue the culling effort.

Funding Update: £24,000 from the Griffin-Calliachar fund for the HOSFP has been confirmed.

£45,000 has been applied for from the Gannochy Trust, which has a meeting on 14th December.

Application has also been made to HLF.

7: Project Officer's report: HH tabled her detailed report.

A circular 'all-abilities' path is planned from the Braes of Foss carpark through HPCLT, FC and JMT land.

The 'place aware' project designed by Alec Findlay seemed costly; reaction to it was mixed, but it was agreed that we would not divert any fund-raising activity to it.

There is a move by the Heart of Scotland Forest Project, instigated by the JMT fund-raiser, to involve local businesses in corporate. JMT will provide promotional material. Funds raised will be split. It was agreed we should be involved in this.

**ACTION: HH**

Fences: The Allt Mhor and road-side fence are funded by Woodland Trust and JMT. Rab Robertson will start work in January, beginning on JMT land. HH will meet Rab R next week to confirm the exact route. This may run along the north side of the Allt Mhor, thereby removing the need for watergates, which are always a weak point. Sandy McAdam has nearly completed the Glengoulandie fence.

Training Course: the three trainees are progressing well and will graduate on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

The Green Team has been active: removing fencing on Schiehallion, making the forestry march fence more visible to grouse, placing vole guards where needed, replacing fence posts etc.

Visits: Rural Skills pupils from Breadalbane in October, two work experience pupils from Pitlochry High in November, a planned tree-planting day by Pitlochry and Aberfeldy Rotary groups on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

A table of volunteer hours on the hill from July 2016 to July 2017 was circulated.

HH would like all to record the total hours spent on HPCLT business, including 'admin'. WMcG offered to design a template.

**ACTION: WMcG, ALL**

8. Wee Birks Field update: County Property Searches has visited and determined the boundaries. This affects access rights for HPCLT vehicular access which would be available only across land owned by Grovebury Management, who have disputed HPCLT's right of access. However the meeting was not overly concerned about this; we can probably carry out any improvements we might wish to make without needing vehicular access. BH will discuss with J&H Mitchell.

**ACTION: BH**

9: Hydroscheme: Greenhydro Renewables has been bought by GFG Alliance. No changes are expected.

10: Website; facebook: RR is looking into setting up Paypal for donations, and also Dropbox. There was some discussion about how best to archive Minutes and other records. Dropbox was a possibility.

**ACTION: RR**

11: Changes to constitution: There have been several meetings of the subgroup considering this (AM, RP and MJ with BH). The main focus was on the 'charitable purposes', which have to provide public benefit and which require the approval of OSCR. This section has been much improved.

Electronic voting is now allowed; meetings do not need to be in a single location. The number of Trustees, the rules for retirement and resulting election pattern are simplified, as is co-option. Membership conditions are also simplified. It is essential to have an accurate record of members, who must consent to their data being held. BH has passed these suggested changes to Colin Liddell to submit to OSCR for consent.

The EGM at which these changes can be implemented will take place just before the AGM so that they will apply immediately.

BH and the subgroup were thanked for their work.

12: AGM preparations. Organisers are AW and JG. The date and venue (24<sup>th</sup> March 2018, Tummel Bridge) are decided. Possible speakers were suggested. The dead-lines for Quair issues were noted.

13: Non-domestic rates; shooting rights: A notice from P and K council intimated that non-domestic rates were applicable to DC because shooting takes place on the land. However the Small Business Rate Relief of 100% applies (large shooting estates are liable).

14: 'Alien' willows at DC: TF had suggested that *Salix fragilis* is inappropriate on DC and should possibly be removed. However, there was no agreement to do this and no action will be taken.

15: AOCB

The puddles in the car park will be filled in by HH and volunteers. **ACTION: HH**

IW pointed out that the condition of the Portaloo had deteriorated. Since the cost is high (£100 per month) he suggested we request either a lower rate, or a new or refurbished Portaloo. HH to request this. **ACTION: HH**

HH would like to have a project management meeting, WMcG, MN and AW with HH. **ACTION: HH**

## 16: Date and Venue of Next Meetings

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 at Ann Macintosh's, Aberfeldy

5<sup>th</sup> March (Pre-AGM meeting)

24<sup>th</sup> March (AGM)

9<sup>th</sup> April (Post-AGM meeting, if needed) avoiding 2<sup>nd</sup> April, which is Easter Monday

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm