

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust
Scottish Charity Number: SC032801

**Minutes of Trustees' Meeting held at Cluain
on Thursday 5th February, 2015 at 7.00 pm.**

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

Apologies: Julie Gardiner, Harry Ross, Jim Low, Innes Smith, Sandra Winter

Minutes of previous meeting on 2nd December 2014: Approved (prop BH, sec IW)

Matters arising: JL has agreed to approach SSE to discuss changing the commutation for way-leave payments.

SACTION JL

Tim Ambrose feels that amortisation of life membership subscriptions is unnecessary at present.

JG has so far ordered 10,000 Scots pine from Alba trees; 5,000 from Charles Arnot, together with downy birch

BH was concerned about the complexity of accessing the HPCLT Facebook page. Others will check this.

RP will check the date of a Pitlochry high School visit to DC.

A First Aid box has been bought by IW.

Finance: IW tabled a four-year comparison, together with an update on funds in the bank accounts (current £13,658; OEF £2740)

AGM: BH was congratulated on his production of the Trustees' report, circulated in advance of the meeting. A few minor corrections were suggested and made.

To comply with the requirements of the Constitution, AP offered to resign and stand for re-election; MJ is willing to stand for election. RP will sound out a neighbour who has conservation interests; TF will ask Gordon Stronach. AP will ask another possible person. ACTION RP, TF, AP

Refreshments will be organised by TW and MJ. ACTION TW and MJ

It was agreed to have the moth trap and trail camera on display. ACTION BH

AP had circulated a map of the marked routes on DC, with the geographical centre of mainland Scotland marked. BH will write 'welcome' notes for the back. The title 'Dun Coillich Community Land' was agreed. Copies will be available at the AGM. AP pointed out that the system of layers gave good flexibility: he could add 100m grid lines on copies for surveying, for example.

The regular dates for work parties, previously agreed to be a good idea, need to be decided. These can be publicised in the mini-update sent to all members, which had been well-received. ACTION BH

BH tabled a draft poster, on green-tinted paper. He will finalise this when a talk title is available. ACTION BH

Distribution was organised as follows; Kinloch Rannoch RP, IW

Dunkeld and Amulree TW

Aberfeldy MJ

West of Aberfeldy, Blair Atholl BH

Grandtully, AP

BH will organise circulation to local magazines, including any possible successor to 'Comment' A preliminary notice has already appeared in the February issue of 'Quair'.

WGS: BH tabled a paper entitled 'Moving Forward', put together after much thought and discussion with JG, IS, WMc, TF etc

All expenses should be *recorded*. ACTION IW.

Details of the original WGS, and of subsequent changes, must also be available; similarly, dates and location of planting.

Clarification of FC criteria for planted and regen areas; identification of areas that meet those criteria; identification of areas which can be 'swapped', are advisable. Following this; a coherent *planting and management plan* can be drawn up.

BH emphasised the risks of omitting to do this. JG will source the information; BH will collate it. ACTION JG, BH

Planting this spring will be in areas where previous planting has been successful but not at a sufficient density (1100 per hectare). BH will check whether fertiliser has been sourced. ACTION BH

JG will recruit Mitch and Stevie, last year's planters. The consensus was that more than two would be needed.. She will seek more and do a survey to identify the areas which will be marked appropriately. ACTION JG

Fire risk; IW reported that the insurance company had asked if there were fire breaks. This concern was deemed premature. Fire beaters are at the car park.

Stands for them are needed.

IW mentioned a possible carbon offset plan which might provide a source of income. He is prepared to discuss this and report back on any outcome. A meeting in the hut was suggested. BH would attend. ACTION IW, BH

Fencing RP, with TF, will organise any work needed, including more chicken wire along the bottom in some parts. ACTION RP, TF.

Culling: IS will have a deer count on Saturday 21st March at 10 am. Participants are needed; there were too few at the last count. AP thought school pupils might join in, especially those doing the John Muir Award, also Scouts (Aberfeldy has a new Scout leader) ACTION IS, AP

RP suggested a deer leap in the NW corner, where material would be readily available. However, the deer would then leap onto JMT land, so consent from JMT would be an essential. A leap in the S corner would mean that the exiting deer would land on HPCLT land. This project was delegated to RP. ACTION RP.

Grant applications: No information.

Visiting groups: Nothing yet definite

A O B

Centre of Scotland. The geographical centre of mainland Scotland is located on DC. AP will mark the position on the ground, using a GPS. RP would like to take part, as might Liz Auty. Several GPSs are more accurate than one. A Scots pine, moderate size, was thought to be appropriate for planting at this position. (AP may have a suitable tree).

RP asked how many fire beaters were needed at various places. The N corner by the FC gate was a suggested location; a stand for them was needed.

AP asked about a barrier where several cars had left the road, in fatal accidents.. The best way forward was thought to be by engaging Councillor Ian Campbell ACTION?

BH mentioned that planning permission had been sought for a new barites mine.

The meeting closed at 10 pm, with thanks to our hosts.

Date of next meeting:

Monday 13th April , 7.00 pm

at Cluain, Fortingall