

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Minutes of Meeting of Trustees held on Tuesday 5 June 2007 at 7:15 p.m.
At Duireaskin, Aberfeldy

Present: Rob Coope, Tim Fison, Bill Hoare, Robin Hull, Paul Jarvis (Chairman), Margaret Jarvis, Ann Partridge, Andrew Pointer, and Clare Thomas.

1. Apologies: Gordon Evans and Julie Gardiner.

2. Minutes of previous meeting of 3 April 2007: The following emendations were made:

Item 5. AGM. Lines 8/9 beginning "PJ will send..." were deleted.

Item 7. Woodlands. Line 6, the word "enlarges" was replaced by "clarifies."

The two attachments for the minutes of 3 April 2007, which were not sent out with the copy of those minutes, are now sent with the minutes of today (5 June 2007).

RH requested that all minutes be sent out in a timely fashion in the future so that job assignments could be carried out in time for the next meeting.

3. Matters arising: As requested at the 3 April meeting, MJ has mailed to all Trustees a draft of a standing order for memberships.

In replying to Ron Youngman's letter to the AGM, RH has informed him of the discussion at the 3 April 2007 Trustees' meeting at which all the points RY raised were addressed.

Arrangements for next year's AGM are now in place. The meeting will take place on 15 March 2008 in the Tryst Hall in Pitlochry, which, as of this writing, has now been reserved by MJ. Aubrey Manning, Professor of Natural History at the University of Edinburgh and well-known animal behaviourist and television presenter, has been engaged as the speaker.

There was a discussion about a future meeting in Pitlochry, maybe in the autumn, to raise awareness of Dun Coilich in the Pitlochry community. We need to think now about what to do at this meeting, and also how best to publicise it. **BH and RH will consider various possibilities and come back to the next Trustees' meeting with a proposal and time scale. If needed, they will communicate with the Trustees earlier by e-mail.**

4. Reports from Groups:

a). Woodlands PJ reported that 40 hectares are now mounded and planted with similar species to last year. Most are doing well, especially the alder and whitebeam. There is still a need for replacements, however, in the area of previous planting. A question was raised as to whether there was a timescale for this replanting and who would do it. Since the area is quite large, the replanting project will have to be well organised. PJ said he was impressed with the work of Willie Shorthouse, who did the last plantings, and that he would be a good person to use again. This project will be done in the autumn.

b). Visitor Access and Car Park The wall between the car park and the road is now down, and the new signs are up. BH will move one of the signs back from the road by about six feet, however. Once that is done, we need to get a completion certificate from Perth and Kinross Council. Colin Liddell will need a copy of this certificate. **PJ will obtain a certificate and ensure that CL gets a copy.**

In response to a question about whether the car park should have trees, BH said yes, but trees should not be planted until after the JCB has prepared the site for the OEF. We need to know the access route used by the JCB first.

c). Wildlife Observation Facility (OEF) Perth and Kinross have now registered our application for planning permission, and a decision should be made within eight weeks. The building and any accessories cannot be ordered until permission is granted. After a brief discussion about the proposed building, the group confirmed the choice of the prefabricated hut called "Ruska". Once the hut is built, we will need information sheets for visitors. RH recommends one sheet for each subject, such as birds, mammals, archaeology, etc. This will be superficial information that can be understood by anyone. **RH will be requesting help from Trustees in compiling these sheets.**

d). Maintenance, Fencing and RSS BH reported that he and TF were about to do another walk around the fences. At present, there is nothing new to report about them. Sandy McAdam has started work on his section of the fence. This means that a bill for the up-to-£1500 that we promised to contribute may be due soon. A discussion arose as to the position of the gate between us and Schiehallion. BH said that the gate needs to be near the forestry land. The present gate is in a state of disrepair. APO said that the Schiehallion group and our group had met two years ago and decided at that time on the position of a new gate, which was further away from the forestry. After discussion, it was agreed that there should be two new stiles, rather than a gate: one stile on the corner and one further down. It was felt that the Schiehallion group would be happy with a stile rather than a gate. **PJ will obtain materials for these stiles and organise their installation.** TF attended a meeting with the Deer Management Group. The Trustees thought it would be useful to attend more of these meetings. **RC will inform us when there are further meetings.** No deer have been seen recently, but we know they are there.

BH reported that the sacrificial crop has been planted. Also, there has been some low level grazing at Whitebridge. The scrapes are doing well and it will be interesting to see them evolve. Phragmites and water lobelia have been planted. There was a discussion about further water plants, which might be introduced into the scrapes.

Innes Smith has done the paper work for the RSS in the past, but since he is no longer a Trustee, this job needs to be taken over by someone else. MJ offered to do it, since she is treasurer and most of the work is accounting. **MJ will ask IS for the papers. BH will assist MJ with this work.**

e.) Natural and Cultural Heritage CT said there was nothing new to report at present.

f.) Keltneyburn Hydro Scheme PJ said there had been no further communications on this issue.

g). Education Activities TF reported that there had been a visit from Kenmore School to DC of 17 youngsters. Their teacher, Jim Liney, is writing an article about the visit for the school publication. (see below). On 26 June, the Beaver Scouts of Aberfeldy will visit DC.

h). Publications and Website TF said that he would make use of the visit and article from Kenmore School and see that it was also reported in *Comment* and *News Round North*. **TF will supply photos for this article.**

The question of a newsletter was raised again. RH said that he would be a central point for articles to put into a newsletter. He will bring what he has gathered to the next meeting. **Trustees should send to RH information for the newsletter concerning any events of interest, such as: trees planted; guided walks; updates on the scrapes, car park, etc.**

Concerning the website, **RH will get in touch with R. Wickenden to see if he can and is willing to work on our website.**

BH will write up an account of the DC walk of 4 June for the next issues of *Comment* and *News Round North*.

5. Treasurer's Report

Bank balance:	Current account:	£ 6,435.99
	Reserve account:	34,734.33
	OEF account:	8,270.79
	Outstanding loan	£57,000.00

Income since previous report (4/4/07)

Gift Aid	£ 3,090.02
Gift Aid OEF	204.00
Subscriptions	45.00

Expenditure since previous report

Tree planting	£ 3,681.21
Trees	9,172.40
Annual legal fees	852.50
W.B. Grieve (car park wall)	2,244.25
Whisky for speaker	12.00
Insurance	367.50
Ordnance survey fee	55.81
Hire of hall for AGM	36.00

6. Any Other Business The Carrifran group are coming to DC for a visit on 15 July 2007. There will be 11 people. They will arrive at 11 a.m. All are welcome to join them. The next DC guided walk by BH will be on 8 July 2007. BH requests a volunteer to conduct the 19 August DC walk at 2 p.m., since he will be away. **A volunteer should get in touch with BH.**

7. Future Meetings

The next Trustees' meeting will be held on **Tuesday 7 August 2007 at 7:15 p.m. at Stillness, Weem, the home of CT.**

The meeting after that will be held on Tuesday 6 November 2007.

8. Visit from the Friends of the Birks Cinema Charlotte Flower and Derek Montgomerie came to talk to the Trustees about the community cinema project in Aberfeldy and whether this project would fit under the umbrella of HPCLT. CF explained that the cinema group had already employed a consultant to do a feasibility study of whether a community cinema would be viable in Aberfeldy, and the consultant had concluded that it would. The group is now studying how best to manage such a project and wondered whether HPCLT could incorporate a community cinema as one of its parts. DC is at present the only project functioning within

the HPCLT. PJ explained that while HPCLT is a “land “ trust and is concerned primarily with the natural environment, the wording of the trust is quite flexible and would appear to allow various types of projects. The Trustees as a group had no objection to incorporating the cinema, as long as it was legally and financially feasible. It was agreed that the next step should be a discussion with Colin Liddell. CF said that she would make an appointment to meet with CL. Everyone wished the cinema group the best of luck with their project.

The meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.