

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust
Scottish Charity Number: SC032801

Minutes of Trustees' Meeting held at Keltneyburn, Aberfeldy
Monday 6th March 2017, at 7.30 pm.

Present: Richard Paul (chairman), Margaret Jarvis (minutes), Julie Gardiner, Heather Hamilton, Bill Hoare, Ann Macintosh, John Marshall, Richard Rees, Trish Waite, Andy Walker, Ian Wilkinson.

Apologies: Jim Anderson, Tim Fison, Rob Coope, Willie McGhee, Andy Pointer.

Minutes 15th Jan 2017: approved

Matters arising BH reported that we now have a deed of servitude, which cannot be cancelled, instead of wayleave. This change must be validated by a vote of attendees (or by proxy vote) at the AGM.

Retiring Trustees are TW, JA and J Shorthouse who are not standing for re-election. Nomination forms for AM, RR, and Emma O'Shea have been completed. Two more nominees are expected.

HH will be meeting NTS staff from Killin on DC on 8th May

Project officer's report

The graduation ceremony for the first group of Trainees had taken place on Thursday 2nd March. Liz Auty and Mike Daniels (JMT) and Peter Fulton (FC) were present at this very successful occasion. The Trainees were presented with certificates. They are all now in employment. AW offered congratulations to HH for the success of this venture. This was approved by all. BH suggested publicity for this event, with photographs, in 'The Quair' etc. HH will organise this. **ACTION HH**

There are currently five enthusiastic Trainees, younger than the first group

HH wants more publicity for volunteer days on Tuesdays and the last Saturday of the month

Outreach: HH is working with Grandtully Primary using the camera trap.

Kenmore P6 and P7 wish to use DC to work for their John Muir Award.

Pitlochry HS will be planting trees, sourced from the Woodland Trust, on 17th March.

The local 'Beavers' will be coming on 27th March and a group from Yorkhill Hospital will be coming again this year.

Breadalbane Primary pupils plan to do a bug search on the Menzies field for their John Muir Award.

HH suggested that we should have a logo. The meeting supported her further investigation of the possibilities. **ACTION HH**

HH expressed her wish to get all records for DC in order and accessible. She would like to do more recording. Liz Auty has information about appropriate methods for biological recording.

She now has information about compostable toilets; they must be sited at least 10m from the burn. SEPA approval is required

She will email information about organised visits to the black grouse lek. Booking is essential **ACTION HH**

Forestry Inspection update: no information available

Financial report: IW circulated a report for the period from Nov30th 2016 to March 1st 2017. As agreed previously, the Business Account and the Business Reserve account (OEF account) had been merged. There is a separate Project Account.

Significant expenditure includes £850 for stalking costs (6 roe deer had been shot); £3780 for wages; £3666 training course fees; £360 portaloos hire for three months. Significant income from the Hydroscheme is ££3622 rental and £1000 donation. BH said that ca £8500 is expected from SSE for capitalisation of wayleave. IW will seek for gift aid payment this year before 30th November. It can be requested for four years at a time. BH asked whether project costs are within budget. They were confirmed to be.

AGM preparation and exhibits:

AW has publicised the AGM in 'the Quair' etc. RP will email a poster for distribution by various people **ACTION RP**, IW, Kinloch Rannoch; TW, Camserney and Weem; AW, Keltneyburn; BH, Aberfeldy; HH, Grandtully, Killin. IW will be at the door with updated membership application forms (on one side of one page; allowing standing order to be payable online, gift aid included) He has a list of 17 'supporters' –those who have paid at one time but not in the last three years. AM will take the minutes. HH will check internet availability. RR will have an exhibit about the web site development.

The problem of laptop/projector communication was aired and solved as far as possible. The white walls act as a suitable screen

HH has good photographs of Trainees on the course; they will be encouraged to be present.

RP will exhibit maps of DeeCee's 'our' hen harrier's flight paths. Also up-to-date wildlife information.

BH will display archaeological maps and information about the Menzies Trust field. JG will have information about the FC area bordering DC to the north.

ACTION ALL

TW will organise catering ACTION TW

The Menzies Trust field: Posters about this are displayed – one in the area itself. Several emails have come in response.

There has been a meeting with the Move-to-Improve group, who have a project in The Lower Birks.

BH will now ask those who offered, to do surveys (Rick Worrell, trees, Audrey Litterick, soil; Clare Thomas archaeology; JG and Ruth Atkinson, plants)

BH said that the boundary of the area now needs to be marked on the ground, needing three people.

Keltneyburn payment update: legal matters are now complete. There is a minor change in area because of the change in the weir. More removal of accumulated gravel was necessary after heavy rain. It must be replaced below the weir.

There has been discussion of ways to increase the output from about 1.7 to 2.0 megawatts. This would increase HPCLT's income.

Website: RR said that substantial progress had been made, taking more effort than had been anticipated. Consequently BH suggested increasing the payment to Alice up to £1000. All agreed. Reconfiguring pages to A4 may pose a problem for mobile phones' smaller screens. Linking web pages to Facebook is another issue which arose. JM has expertise with GIS. He is working with Liz Auty's data and would like to co-ordinate all available relevant data

Input from Trustees

TW had revised her opinion that a trail bike route will help mark the walking routes. She considers that using a brushcutter for this is preferable.

BH will obtain a Tayside Mountain Rescue Team collecting box for display at the AGM, as thanks for their efforts in a rescue of a woman from the caravan site from the DC. She had slipped near the summit and broken her leg at 1pm. Her calls for help were heard by a stalker at 4pm. He called the Mountain Rescue, who alerted the helicopter. The casualty was uplifted at 10pm. This episode promoted a discussion on safety.

HH will draw up a map of mobile phone reception on the hill, to go on the back of the map leaflets. BH, RP and HH will meet to discuss safety aspects **ACTION HH, RP, BH**

RR wondered if the finances of the Menzies field would be dealt with separately. BH thought this was too early to decide.

First we decide what to do there; the name – there have not yet been many suggestions (Bard's Field; Poets' Field?)

HH mentioned the Heart of Scotland Forest Partnership, comprising JMT, Forest Enterprise, Woodland Trust, HPCLT, SWT. JMT is producing a few-minute publicising film. A launch may be about the end of June.

AOB MJ has photos dating back to 2002; she will pass them to HH.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm, with thanks to AW for his hospitality.

Date and place of next meeting

Monday, 3rd April at Moness Lodge, 7.30pm