

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Minutes of Meeting of Trustees held on Monday, 7th March 2005, at Duireaskin, Aberfeldy at 7.15 p.m.

Present: Lynnette Borradaile, Gordon Evans, Robin Hull, Marjorie Keddie, Hamish Nicholson Paul Jarvis (Chairman), Andrew Pointer, Margaret Jarvis (Minutes Secretary).

1. **Apologies:** Bill Hoare, Marjorie Finlayson, Innes Smith.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting on 8th February 2005:** approved and signed.
3. **Matters arising:** all are agenda items.
4. **Arrangements for AGM:** A draft Agenda was tabled by PJ. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that Trustees should speak about their various roles in advance of the formal AGM; it was hoped that this would generate enthusiasm and minimise the tedium of the formal proceedings. The agreed programme will be: i. 2.00 pm, exhibition; ii. 2.30 pm, informal talks by Trustees, with questions and discussion and a flexible division of time between topics, followed by refreshments; iii. at approximately 3.30 pm, talk by Sir John Lister-Kaye; iv. 4.30 pm formal AGM. This agreed programme, as it will be going out to all Members, is attached.

There followed some discussion of the content. Trustees' talks might include JG on the WGS, RH on the survey and the book, BH on fences and deer, together with something on archaeology, maybe Clare Thomas. If an election is necessary the ballot papers would be placed on the seats and the count done during Sir John's talk. GE and LB offered to do the counting. A draft report of 'Trustees Activities' was tabled by PJ. Copies had been e-mailed to Trustees earlier in the day. AP congratulated PJ on the document and suggested that it be put on the web site RH pointed out that the advantage of purchase of 'Ravens over the Hill' through HPCLT was that the profit then goes to the Trust. He suggested including the fact that Malcolm Appleby had commemorated the publication of the book by the design of a brooch depicting a raven. This can be bought by Members at the AGM Thanks are due to Malcolm Appleby for his continued very generous support in this way. **ACTION PJ.** A number of small corrections and additions were made to the tabled document. MJ will email an amended copy to AP. **ACTION MJ.**

The 'Natural History' report will be included in the exhibit mounted by RH. He now has an extensive beetle survey from Russell Coope. PJ will add the data he has on trees. **ACTION PJ.**

LB suggested that the website address should be included in the Activities document and also that bullet points might make for easier reading of the Treasurer's report. PJ agreed and asked for any further modifications to be suggested by 10 am. tomorrow morning.

BC had written an explanatory note to accompany the Financial Statement prepared by Tim Ambrose. Both were circulated. HN expressed appreciation for the low legal fees. PJ said that Colin Liddell was always very generous and helpful to HPCLT. GE thought the financial documents were very lucid. No problems were found. PJ pointed out that Tim Ambrose, who works for Price, Waterhouse, Coopers and is a keen hill-walker, gives his time free of charge. Thanks were given to him by all. It was agreed to present him with a copy of 'Ravens over the Hill' and with one of the raven brooches. He is already an honorary member of HPCLT. **ACTION RH & PJ**

RH tabled a poster, which was admired by all, advertising the AGM. This will be widely distributed.

LB offered to prepare the mailing to Members of all the required documents for the AGM. **ACTION PJ & LB**

RH has received a document from Sir John Lister-Kaye indicating how he would like to be introduced by the chairman. RH will email it to PJ. **ACTION RH**

5. **RSS (Scrapes, fank etc):** In the absence of JG and IS, RH said that three quotations from contractors had been received: £5750 from D.Shanks; £5867 plus VAT from W.Grieve; £1325 from W.Stewart, 15 Bridgend, Aberfeldy, (£1200 for 700square metres of scrapes plus £125 for clearing the old fank). Although the latter did not include a path, it is so much less than the other two, even if VAT is added, that it was agreed to ask JG to go ahead and accept it, since she had contacted W. Stewart, and report back to IS and RH. **ACTION JG.** Maps of the scrape area, prepared by JG, were circulated. She had remarked

the areas initially marked with canes before Christmas. RH said he had initially been worried about this but had discussed it with JG and now accepted the changes. The new position did not include the concrete of the old fank and is not so well placed in relation to the obvious place for a future hide, high above the burn. However, these difficulties can be addressed in a later phase. PJ pointed out that the RSS money would come every year, in relatively small amounts, so there is an advantage in spreading the cost of the project.

PJ had applied to Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust, at Syd House's suggestion, for a grant for the car park construction. This was not in time to be considered at a recent meeting but the Project officer, Mr Gordon, will visit the site after Easter. He was enthusiastic about the scrapes, future hide etc. PJ pointed out that P and K Countryside Trust were likely to appreciate the larger picture, including the RSS and path to the hide with access for the disabled.

6. **Keltneyburn Hydroscheme:** Jimmy Stewart and Alistair Henderson had been informed by PJ that HPCLT would have to ballot all members before approval of the scheme and in reply had asked for a decision as soon as possible. However, PJ understood that not all responses to the Scoping Study has been received yet. It was agreed that there should be a preliminary mention of this at the AGM. JS will be present.
7. **July event:** there was nothing new since the previous meeting, but the Tayside Police will be making a second visit, with security officials from London, to the site on 8th March.
8. **Woodland project; deer, fences etc:** There has been a major incursion of deer. The stalkers have been on the hill on several occasions. PJ and BH agreed that professional fencing contractors would be needed to resolve this problem, particularly along the difficult lengths of fence parallel with and on the far side of the Allt Mor. Large numbers of deer would prevent natural regeneration and would be disastrous after planting had begun.
9. **Any other business;** none

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 4th April 2005.