

Minutes of Trustees Meeting held on Monday October 7th, 2002, at Duireaskin, Aberfeldy at 7.15 p.m.

Present: Paul Jarvis (chairman), Ruth Atkinson, Beryl Coope, Julie Gardiner, Bill Hoare, Robin Hull, Hamish Nicholson, Andrew Pointer, Ian Riddell, Margaret Jarvis (minutes secretary).

1. *Apologies:* Marjorie Finlayson, Innes Smith.

2. *Minutes of Trustees meeting of 13th August 2002:* Accepted and signed

3. *Matters arising:* The poster produced for the launch of the Tayside Biodiversity Action Plan was admired. PJ's talk about Dùn Coillich had been well received and all the newsletters and membership application forms had been taken. JG will email the newsletter to MJ so that more can be printed and distributed to Tourist Information Centres. **ACTION JG, MJ.**

There had been no further progress on Health and Safety issues. **ACTION AP.**

AP had updated the web site with a different photo, membership form (including Gift Aid) and minutes of meetings. Some minutes remain to be added. MJ will send these. **ACTION MJ, AP.**

Permanent markers for the vegetation plots have arrived and been paid for. They will be put on site in November. **ACTION RA, PJ, MJ and others.**

PJ has still to write to Tim Ambrose. **ACTION PJ.**

The bank is still missing some signatories for the new interest-bearing account. **ACTION IS etc.**

WGS; PJ had received the relevant forms from Mike Strachan. PJ and JG will fill them in together. **ACTION PJ and JG.**

A copy of the Scots Magazine with RH's article about Dùn Coillich is now in the archive.

P and K Countryside Trust: IR had spoken to Tim Yair and to Robbie Gordon (formerly a beef farmer in Aberdeenshire for 30 years, then a university graduate, now an expert on European grants working for the Trust). RG needs a specific project before he can be involved. IR had visited such a project at Kilmartin and been very favourably impressed. IR will stay in touch with RG and P and K Countryside Trust. **ACTION IR.**

4. *Surveying:* The fungal walk of the local Scottish Wildlife Trust Members Centre, led by BH, had taken place on September 11th. About 12 members had participated, which had been good publicity for HPCLT, and resulted in a £5 donation, even though it had not been very good for fungi. Records had been passed to RH.

Surveying generally is proceeding slowly. There are 342 records on the record cards (mostly recorded by RH). These include 57 species of birds, 26 mammal records, and 18 butterfly records. Russell Coope has been visiting his insect traps every couple of weeks and has one more visit scheduled.

RA spoke of the need for an electronic copy of a 1:10,000 scale map, which would be particularly useful in relation to the WGS. She had spoken to Keith Miller, JMT, about this and he is willing to share such a map if he has one. However, RA was authorised to buy one (up to £120) preferably centred on Dùn Coillich. **ACTION RA.**

History :RH has some fascinating , mainly anecdotal material, For example, White Bridge cottage in Victorian times was a pub run by a single mother and her daughter. More information is needed!

5. *Car park* : Robin Baker, Gaia Architects, presented his Interim Report complete with site drawings and photographs. He had carried out a detailed laser survey with Willie Buchanan and as a result favoured a site about 50 metres north of that favoured by Bruce MacNaughton of the Roads Department. This site would allow cars to be tucked in behind the roadside wall, out of sight, and was better drained. RB suggested a meeting on site with available and interested Trustees (Thursday 17th October at 9.30 a.m.) before contacting BM. This was agreed. AP, BC, probably HN, possibly RA and RH, will attend and then will instruct RB to contact the Roads Department. RB was thanked for his clear presentation. **ACTION BC and OTHERS.**

RH asked RB if he could find out anything about the history of the impressive roadside walls.

6. *Dùnkeld Community Land Trust*; IS had attended an open afternoon in Dùnkeld and reported that the concept seemed good but was still at an early stage. He did not anticipate any immediate action but considered that there would be further contact as we would be able to be of help.

7. *Publicity*: RH had written monthly reports for *Comment* and other local magazines. He had contacted BBC Scotland to see if they would be interested in featuring Dùn Coillich on the Saturday morning *Out-of-Doors* programme. He is also investigating a magazine for Scottish ex-pats in USA. Publicity here could be a source of funds.

8. *Education*: BC had been in contact with those involved in the John Muir Trust Award Scheme. Both Dave Picken and the new appointee for this area are very keen to co-operate with HPCLT and think that Dùn Coillich has great potential . At Breadalbane Academy, the Head of Science, Ken Hamilton, runs the D of E scheme and is also interested in using Dùn Coillich as a resource. A site visit for him will be arranged.

The meeting on 29th August had been attended by only two teachers (the rector of Pitlochry and Marjory Bourne of Kinloch Rannoch primary school). The discussion had been helpful although initially negative in that it was pointed out that there was now no time in the curriculum for any visits more than 15 minutes from the school. However, the general opinion is that the involvement of children is essential for the involvement of parents and various ideas were put forward. Survey cards could be given to children to use in the school holidays. Older children might use digital cameras for recording. For schools with tree nurseries, Dùn Coillich would provide a perfect place for planting out seedlings. Nest boxes will be needed and could be made by children.

A simple teachers' pack might be welcomed. BC had offered the services of Trustees to go and speak to pupils in school if required.

PJ mentioned that the launch of the Tayside BAP had involved a performance by an enthusiastic group of primary school children. Carol Bell, P and K Department of Education, had emphasised that to get something added to the curriculum is possible, but requires planning well in advance. Biodiversity is now a popular subject and has a good chance of being included.

9. *Logo*: Discussion about a logo - do we need one? -resulted in the decision that we would take no action unless someone came up with a good idea for an appropriate logo. AP was against the idea of a logo. RH and others thought that consistently using the letterhead in the Tempus Sans ITC font was sufficient

10. *Any Other Business*: PJ reported that the insurance company had now sent a policy, the ambiguities of which had been discussed with Colin Liddell. Public liability is covered and also Employers' Liability, which is needed to cover volunteers. The premium of £250 has now been paid.

PJ had received information from Reforesting Scotland about their initiative in setting up a Community Woodlands Association. This would represent the very diverse owners and managers of the 50 or 60 thousand acres of community woodland in Scotland today. RF had engaged a consultant to draft the Memorandum and Articles and PJ had emailed some general responses to the consultant's questionnaire. Copies of the literature about this were made available to interested Trustees. A conference will be held at Bettyhill on 8th and 9th November.

11. *Date of next meeting:* Thursday, 21st November, Duireaskin, 7.15 p.m.