

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

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

Present: Philip Campbell, Gordon Evans, Tim Fison, Bill Hoare, Marjorie Keddie, Paul Jarvis (Chairman), Hamish Nicholson, Andrew Pointer, Innes Smith, Clare Thomas, Margaret Jarvis (Minutes Secretary).

1. The first agenda item was a short talk by Jeanie Skoyles, Perth and Kinross Ranger Service, about liaison with schools.

2. Apologies: Julie Gardiner.

3. Minutes of previous meeting on 3rd October 2005 : approved with the addition of Ron Youngman's interest.

4. Matters arising:

There has been no further progress on girders for the bridge

Bracken: BH reported that Alec Murray had offered to show the effect of previous spraying of bracken. Ian Wotherspoon will be spraying bracken in the vicinity next year. It might be possible to cooperate with him. AP mentioned a successful trial of bracken control by wild boar in Glen Affric PJ suggested a discussion meeting on bracken control, including people outwith HPCLT, early next year. **ACTION PJ.**

Visitor Distribution Centre (Car Park): At the suggestion of Robbie Gordon of Perth and Kinross Conservation Trust (PKCT), an application has been submitted to the Community Environmental Renewal Scheme (CERS, a grant-providing programme of the Scottish Executive, *Forward Scotland*, funded by the aggregate levy). The application was submitted by PJ a few days prior to the closing date 23rd November, after return from holiday. The application is for 50% of the estimated cost, to supplement the 25% awarded by PKCT. PJ has spent much of the last two days answering questions from the CERS office seeking more details on aspects of the application.

The Community Woodlands Association newsletter e-mailed to PJ will be forwarded to all Trustees. **ACTION MJ.**

IS reported that there had been no further contact with the Amulree Group.

TF had met Sandy McAdam together with the Head Teacher of Kenmore Primary and discussed the possibility of using accommodation at the caravan site.

Publicity: BH had sent a 'poem' to Comment; this had not yet been published. PC suggested a photo-shoot of tree-planting on Dun Coillich. It was agreed that this would take place on two separate days, one soon and one in early January, so as to include as many Trustees as possible. **ACTION PC.**

GE reported that membership is now well over 100 and subscriptions are still coming in.

BH thanked those who had helped with fence repair. However, disappointingly, no-one had turned up for the advertised work party day on 15th October. The reason for this was unclear.

RSPB had been helpful in giving advice about the 'hide' project. BH reported a substantial sum that has already been raised.

5. Organisation and Chairperson procedure:

IS reported that all the suggested groups had the potential to be viable. These would be flexible, with individuals (not necessarily Trustees) being able to opt in or out at any appropriate time. GE will distribute hard copies of the membership list so that interested people can be contacted. **ACTION GE.**

Groups at present are: Strategic Planning: BH, PJ
 Administration and finance: GE, BC, PJ
 Maintenance, Fencing and RSS: BH, IS, JG
 Woodlands and WGS: JG, PC, TF, PJ
 Natural & Cultural Heritage and Archive: HN, CT (later), PJ
 Visitor Access, including car park: MK, PJ, AP, CT (later)
 Public relations: PC
 Website: AP
 Education: TF, LB, CT
 Keltneyburn Hydroscheme: PJ, AP, BH
 Wildlife Observation Facility Group: Robin Hull, BH, Russell Coope, Wendy Mattingly, Malcolm Appleby

IS emphasised the need for the groups to become active immediately, with the interim leaders (underlined) taking responsibility for this. GE suggested that the Trustees should meet quarterly and that the groups should meet at the least before each Trustees' meeting. They should set objectives, assess any need for money and prepare a cash flow forecast. PJ pointed out that significant amounts of money might have to be sought by individual Groups, since the income from members' subscriptions was small.

[Note added: these 'Groups' are essentially Sub-committees of the Board of Trustees. The governance of Sub-Committees is specified in the *Articles of Association*, paragraphs #40 to #45. All Trustees should read those paragraphs.]

BH pointed out that the new Charities legislation required a named Chairperson who would be a contact to the outside world. GE confirmed the need for a focal point for direction and distribution. PJ agreed to continue in this role. MJ agreed to help with distribution of information, etc. PC offered to take over the writing of Minutes- an offer gratefully accepted.

In conclusion, it was agreed that each subgroup should set its own remit and bring it to the Trustees' meeting in February 2006 for approval. **ACTION ALL**

6. Signs:

PC described two kinds of sign and their costs. It was agreed that PC will check the appearance of the cheaper signs (*ca* £250 for two) and if satisfactory the Access Group will take this forward. The expense of wooden signs by Angus Ross (*ca* £1000 for two) was thought to be unjustifiable at this time. **ACTION PC.**

BH reported that Visit Scotland had included Dun Coillich on its web-site; this reinforces the immediate need for signs on the access routes onto the property. Visit Scotland would like photos to add to the text. AP has a reservoir of photos and will provide these, **ACTION AP**. He would welcome new photos from other Trustees for stock and to put onto the HPCLT website. **ACTION ALL**.

7. RSS:

In response to a request by BH, PC offered his garage to store the electric fence equipment until needed again. **ACTION PC**.

BH tabled details of modifications needed to the profiles of the scrapes. The Group will act on this.

BH has written to thank Alec Murray for his help in providing cattle; they are now thought to have been removed.

8. WGS, deer:

Alan Ross, tree planting contractor, had begun tree-planting. Tree seedlings had been delivered to the forest road; PC, TF and JG had transported them to the gate.

Sufficient money had been transferred from the loan granted by the Volant trust to pay for the trees and the planting.

IS reported that the stalkers would have zero tolerance of roe deer, red deer and goats. Alan Ross would report any animals seen to the stalkers by phone direct. IS made the point that there would always be some incursion: the stalkers had seen a red deer stag jumping the fence. PJ proposed that all Trustees should play a part now by going on the hill regularly to look for deer and goats. **ACTION ALL**

9. Any other business:

GE, BH and HN had attended a seminar by Colin Liddell on the new Charities and Financial Services Act (Scotland) 2005, which will take effect on 1st April 2006. BH confirmed that we are already registered with OSCR. He asked if the HPCLT insurance included Trustees' Indemnity Insurance. PJ will check. **ACTION PJ**.

PJ will ask CL's advice on changing the constitution with respect to the voting requirement before the new Act comes into force. **ACTION PJ**.

BH will pass the draft wayleave agreements obtained for possible pylon imposition to CL, who will be a point of contact during his three-month absence. BH confirmed that compensation for any loss of RSS grant could be claimed..

PJ pointed out that there was a ground-swell of opinion in Link, JMT and other NGOs against the route of the pylons, particularly through the National Park, and there was pressure building for a referral and a public enquiry.

BH drew Trustees' attention to the land offered for sale by Harry McAdam between the caravan site and Dun Coillich, and also between the Keltneyburn and the road, to the south of Dun Coillich.

Date of next meeting: 22nd February 2006, 7.15 p.m. Place and Chairman to be decided.

