

Minutes of Trustees Meeting held on Tuesday, 8th July 2003, at Duireaskin, Aberfeldy at 7.15 p.m.

Present: Paul Jarvis (chairman), Ruth Atkinson, Beryl Coope, Marjory Finlayson, Julie Gardiner, Bill Hoare, Robin Hull, Hamish Nicholson, Innes Smith, Margaret Jarvis (minutes secretary).

1. Apologies: Andrew Pointer.

2. Minutes of previous Trustees meeting of 29th May: Approved.

Matters arising:

PJ had not yet been able to make an arrangement to meet on the ground with Ian Hulbert; IH is currently very busy.

PJ MJ and BC had accepted David Mardon's invitation to see the Ben Lawers planting on 20th August.

The problem of deer removal remains. IS thought that driving out the deer was a waste of time because they would just come in again. He suggested paying for a Deer Commission approved stalker to shoot them. The cost would be about £1000 per week and carcasses would fetch about £280 each. This would be best done after September because of flies. He suggested regular removal of small numbers would be best. Regeneration would be possible if deer numbers were below four to five per 100 hectare. However, JG thought it would be best to remove as many deer as possible, from a natural regeneration viewpoint. HN also thought we should have a policy of no deer now - but this might be relaxed in 20 years or so. IS thought employing a local person would be the best solution. Insurance cover would be essential, but a qualified contractor would have his own. BC will ask Rob Coope if he knows a suitable person. IS will also contact such a person and discuss an arrangement to bring to the next meeting. **ACTION BC and IS.**

There had been no comeback from students about carrying out a tree survey. JG has not yet asked Mike Strachan about funding of such a survey.

BC has been in contact with the new membership secretary, Gordon Evans. There are now 65 individual members of HCPLT. It was agreed that reminders should be sent to those who had not yet paid subscriptions. **ACTION BC and GE.**

RA wished to reduce her commitment to vegetation surveying because of a back problem. She would send GPS data etc to JG. **ACTION RA**

JG had contacted Hamish Murray about Rannoch pine. He had asked to be contacted again in the autumn. **ACTION JG.**

4. Car Park:

Our application to Fresh Futures "Transforming your Space" for funding the car park was rejected. PJ read the letter from the Programme Leader, in which the reason

given for rejection was that "it does not address issues of disadvantage". PJ felt strongly that we had been misled because in the Guidance Notes for applications to this grant programme "disadvantage" is not mentioned once in any of the sections (Programme priorities, Eligibility and assessment criteria, The application process, Application help notes), whereas "community" is heavily emphasised throughout. He had been given different reasons for rejection on the phone. JG thought the community is disadvantaged in respect of access. BH and RH advised against a display of 'sour grapes'. BH thought we should ask for more information, as offered in the letter, and that we should reply addressing the reasons for rejection. RA suggested asking them to suggest other sources of funding. PJ will reply to the letter. **ACTION PJ.**

The application had been made for the full amount of the estimate. IS and RH thought we should now go for a car park development in phases at minimum cost, initially consisting of a gap in the wall and a place to park, consistent with the requirements of the Roads Department as approved in the Planning consent already given. IS emphasised the need to have off road parking as soon as possible - the entrance from the road would be 'phase one'. BC pointed out that we had had offers of help from W. Grieve and Charlie Ramsay. She suggested getting a minimum estimate from them. IS agreed, but will also arrange to meet another contractor on site and will then email everyone concerned. **ACTION IS, BH, HN, BC and RC.**

5. Fence and gates.

BH had made a detailed inspection of the perimeter fence, made some necessary repairs, and circulated his findings by e-mail. Some parts, on the south side of the burn, are not in good condition and will need to be monitored. IS pointed out that the march fences are a dual responsibility. He added that any intruding sheep that are hefted to Dùn Coilich could be bought by us and then sold to another area. We need to find out who owns the sheep intruding on the south-western boundary. BH will check if his repairs have been effective and will check sheep numbers on the next walk (9th July). He was congratulated on his detailed assessment. **ACTION BH.**

BC had noted that the gate at White Bridge was frequently left open; sometimes only a short time after it had been carefully closed. HN suggested a kissing gate to encourage pedestrian access while keeping out sheep. IS said this would not take long to construct. It was agreed to do this on 12th July. PJ will supply a strainer post to secure the deer fence; other posts and rails will be obtained by BH. **ACTION IS, BH, PJ**

6. Hydroproposals.

The 'Hydro group', (only PJ and BH present) had looked through the documents received from the proposers of each scheme prior to the meeting, discussed their merits and problems, and points to be made in replies to them. Neither scheme has an Environmental Impact Assessment yet. The Glengoulandie scheme involves Dùn Coilich directly only through possible effects on water flow, but other land owners may have more direct responses; for example, consent for a dam on JMT land seems unlikely. A letter will be sent to Sandy Mcadam wishing him well. The Keltneyburn scheme involves a low weir and underground chamber on HPCLT land,

and a large diameter pipe to Keltneyburn outwith our land. It would probably generate some income for HPCLT. The proposal document recently received lays out the proposal in the form of an Agreement. If this document is in near final form, we shall need to take legal advice on it as soon as the EIA is complete. We will encourage this scheme, while maintaining good relations with both proposers. BH will write a minute on our assessment of the current position and PJ will draft letters to the two proposers for BH to agree. MF asked if CL would be a suitable lawyer as he is involved with HPCLT in another capacity. PJ did not think this would be a problem and pointed out that CL was not now involved with either of the proposed developments. He made the point that if we get income in this way then we might need to set up a subsidiary Trading Company. **ACTION PJ, BH.**

7. Reports.

WOODLAND The woodland group (JG, RA, IS) had met/corresponded and had redrawn a map of where they thought tree planting should take place. Mike Strachan had approved this for action within the existing WGS. The grant per hectare given by this scheme would cover the cost of buying and planting the seedlings. PJ mentioned a recent visit to woodland that had been planted approximately 10 years ago on Knoydart, by volunteers. This looked very attractive and natural. JG pointed out that we could employ a few contactors over a long period, as at Carrifran; this would increase the natural effect. BH thought this would be desirable. The average density of 2100 per hectare corresponds to ca 2-metre spacing but the trees would be planted in interspaced groups and thinned out after 10 years.

It was agreed to take this forward now. JG will obtain copies of the map for circulation to all Trustees so they can assess the areas on the ground and, if desirable, propose modifications. BH was particularly concerned about the limestone. It was emphasised that modifications to the areas and species to be planted will be made on the ground in relation to local features as planting progresses, and grant will be paid on what is actually planted. Walk dates were set for 26th and 30th July starting at White Bridge at 11am. **ACTION JG and ALL.**

BIRDATHON This had made £750 to £800 for HPCLT. Nine teams had taken part. So many prizes had been donated that they had all won a prize!

About 18 people had come for the evening's activities.

SURVEYING. RH was still not receiving records; please send them in as soon as possible. **ACTION ALL**

8. Image. RH feels that we are still not involving the community sufficiently. HN made the point that the AGM surely had that purpose. RH was also worried about some of the opinions expressed to him. BH hoped that such criticism was ill-founded and PJ suggested that we need to get something done on the property. BC pointed out that primary school children had been to Dùn Coilich with Marjory Bourne, who had taken photographs that could be used for publicity. It was agreed to put as much as possible about this visit in '*Comment*'. **ACTION BC.**

9.A.O.B.

RH had met the O'Flynn's (Glen Lyon), who are BBC-trained and had offered to make a videotape of Dùn Coillich at no cost to HPCLT. He had suggested they walk over the hill and make a sample tape as he thinks the idea is worth following up. BH offered to show them round. HN thought it would be a good idea to show something constructive going on. All agreed that this initiative should be encouraged.

BH would like to follow up the idea of a country burial site on the property. He would like to get more information about what is needed. This was agreed. **ACTION**
BH. BC commented that the roadside field might be the only one with deep enough soil and had the advantage of accessibility.

PJ tabled the new Community Woodland Association's first newsletter.

Date of next meeting: Monday 25th August at Duireaskin at 7.15 p.m.