

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust
Scottish Charity Number: SC032801

**Minutes of Trustees' Meeting held at Visitor Hut
on Friday 8th August 2014 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Bill Hoare (chairman), Andy Pointer, Harry Ross, Innes Smith, Trish Waite, Ian Wilkinson.
Advisors: Julie Gardiner, Margaret Jarvis (minutes), Tim Fison

Apologies: Robin Hull, Jim Low, Richard Paul.

Minutes of previous meeting on 3rd June : Approved unanimously

Matters arising: Included on the agenda

Financial matters: memberships : The treasurer, IW, reported that there is £3524.62 in the OEF reserve account; £9894.65 in the current account.

Memberships: 5 honorary members plus Tim Ambrose; 90 others listed but 31 have not paid for 2 years and 44 for one year. These figures emphasise the value of standing orders.

One new member is especially keen to work on DC: care must be taken to communicate with such members when work parties are organised. **ACTION ALL**

Keltneyburn hydroscheme: Hopefully, the problem of implosion of the pipe had been solved so our income dependent on amount generated should not be at risk.

SSE is offering to capitalise way leave payments. They would also pay our legal fees for arranging a Deed of Servitude – this offer is only open while the line is still under construction. This would simplify the accounting since one lump sum will be paid, replacing small sums received annually. The meeting accepted that this would be a sensible course to follow. However, Jim Low has suggested that the initial amount offered by SSE may be negotiable upwards to our benefit. This suggestion is to be investigated. **ACTION IW, JL.**

Updates

BH had requested information before the proposed FC visit.

Deer, sheep: Rob Coope had reported that 20 roe deer had been shot in 2013 and 17 roe and four stags so far in 2014. Shooting will soon begin again.

Fences: addition of chicken wire will continue. **ACTION RP and others**

Trees: JG reported that the planters, Mitch and Stevie, had planted 12,500 this last season. In addition, a few hundred were planted by volunteers. AP and others emphasised that we must be sure to give accurate figures to the FC. JG considers that we should aim to plant 20,000 next spring but wait to finalise the number until after the FC visit. The FC do not wish to be accompanied on their visit.

Tree nursery: At present the nursery has too many trees and too few volunteers working in it. Planters who work much more quickly than visiting school groups are essential. On the advice of JG, the decision was made to ask Mitch and Stevie to plant out in the spring, above the head dyke on the hut side of the hill, discarding any not worth moving. This would be part of an overall plan. **ACTION JG and BH**

Juniper not flourishing should be destroyed because of disease. (done by TW on 11th Aug)

A second nursery could be established at Whitebridge, having the advantage of available water from the burn there. The fence already there might form one side of the enclosure. TW, MJ and JG will investigate

ACTION TW, JG, MJ

RP has contacted Peter Hoyer, Breadalbane Academy, about a ram pump to be built by pupils.

Grant applications update (Griffin, HLF, JMT Conservation Fund etc) : There was no news from Willie McGhee.

Use of social media (Facebook, QR): Colin Liddell had considered that the DC Facebook should not be 'open' so it was changed to closed by RP. However after learning more about it, he conceded that 'open' was acceptable. The meeting agreed we should have an "Open" Facebook site meaning that whilst anyone can read it, only members can add material.

ACTION RP

Whether we should have a 'QR' is being researched.

Visiting groups: MJ will ask whether a group from Kindrogan visited as planned. **ACTION MJ**

When school term begins, other visits can be organised.

Work needing to be done: The path to the hut is somewhat overgrown; it should be wheel-chair accessible. IW offered to spray it so that a width of one metre is weed-free. IS offered to supply glycosate. **ACTION IW, IS**

TF offered to screw the entrance notice back up on the posts **ACTION TF (Done by TF & JT on 9th Aug)**

The cattle grid is not silted up at present. To avoid silting up in future the run-off down the road needs to be diverted.

ACTION BH

A deer count will be organised by IS and Rob Coope at the end of September. **ACTION IS, RC AND all**
The hut has signs of dampness inside. A discussion about improving ventilation ensued, possibly using a solar-powered 12 volt fan. TW and JG may have such a device. AP thought a suitable fan would be hard to find and that another layer under the tiles at the bottom edge of the roof would be best especially if gutters also added. Investigation needed. **ACTION BH**
The scrapes have dried out; no action will be taken at present.

The path markers are obscured by vegetation in the summer. The decision was taken to purchase a brush-cutter (ca £600). This would not be used by anyone alone; insurance must be checked. Steve Bennet in Killin offers a good price. **ACTION BH, TF**

Whitebridge Carpark planting plan: This is needed now although reinstatement of the site is delayed. Permission from PKC and agreement from Jacquie Smith at Whitebridge cottage is required. TW and MJ will meet again and finalise a plan **ACTION TW, MJ**

Footpath map: AP tabled a 1:25,000 map with footpaths shown. Additions (memorial bench, stile at northwest corner, limestone areas, shielings, colour code for paths matching post colours) AP will amend the map and BH will take to Danscot in Perth to obtain an A3 version. **ACTION AP, BH**

Deer leap: no response has been received from the army. BH will follow up. **ACTION BH**

Tree Stakes & Tubes in area between hut and Pine wood need regular maintenance, JG offered to do this **ACTION JG**.

JMT liaison:

Work parties: Liz Auty, JMT, wishes to set up an informal volunteer group to work on Schiehallion, DC and possibly also Keltneyburn. The meeting welcomed this initiative.

Water voles: Some years ago JG and Alan Ross (the planter) had observed water voles at a flush near the Schiehallion march. Liz Auty has offered to investigate presence of voles on DC.

AOB: TF had seen two adders at the kissing gate at the southern tip of DC

Rannoch Games; JMT will have a stall. Date is 3rd Saturday in August - BH will ask JMT if they will display our leaflets and Map. **ACTION BH**

BH said that he had contact with Mr Lambert at John Clegg & Co, the agent for the owner of the land along the road, opposite DC. There was no decision to do more at present.

A brass memorial plaque was not yet in place by the newly planted pines on Dun Beag. Lou Radford has visited the area and will write about it. **ACTION BH**

There was no enthusiasm about taking forward the idea of a logo so action was deferred. However, some years ago the font 'tempus sans ITC' was chosen for use in HPCLT documents.

BH has been contacted by Robin Yellowlees, the son of Watty Yellowlees, about a memorial in the form of a community orchard. However, the altitude of DC is too high for an orchard.

BH will attend a Community Woodlands Conference in Dunbar (at his own expense).

BH will circulate, by email, an up-to-date list of Trustees' and advisors' contact details for checking. **ACTION BH.**

RP's email address is now rannochnet@icloud.com

HR asked about the damaged roadside fence. Tayside Contacts will probably build a retaining wall with buttresses

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm, with thanks to Tim for refreshments.

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 2nd October 2014, at 7.00 pm.

Place to be decided