

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Minutes of Meeting of Trustees held on Wednesday 9th June 2010 at 7:15 p.m. at the OEF on Dun Coillich

Present: Julie Gardiner, Margaret Gimblett, Margaret Jarvis, Paul Jarvis, Richard Paul, Andy Pointer (late arrival), June Riddell, Clare Thomas, Bill Hoare (by invitation)

1. Apologies: Rob Coope, Ben Henderson, Tim Fison,

2. Minutes of previous meeting of 13th April, 2010: Approved after minor amendments.

3. Matters Arising:

Hydroscheme. PJ had ascertained from J and H Mitchell that we had no legal right of access by vehicle along the road to the hydroscheme weir intake. To deter random access by vehicles there is going to be a lock, to which we will have a key, put on the last gate before the stretch of new road. It was noted that we could (with KBH Ltd.) if necessary erect a fence around the inlet areas should there be problems of disturbance to the intake, since HPCLT owns 12 m of land on the west side of the burn at the intake. It was agreed that no action be taken, but to monitor the situation. Information passed on from KBH was that electricity generation has begun. To calibrate the output, the v-notch had been blocked temporarily for a short period to fill the pipe initially. It is likely that maximum generation will be about 1800 kW; in reality averaging about 1000 kW for 50% of the time, depending on the rainfall.

Changes to constitution; Gordon Evans has not yet been contacted by Colin Liddell.

4. Membership Recruitment and Publicity:

Membership Recruitment and Publicity: JG needs more material for a newsletter. **ACTION ALL!** It was agreed that more emphasis on access was necessary. Marker posts for trails are needed. JG offered to source some. CT and MG will collaborate to decide on a short route and a NatureTrail to be marked initially, as well as a longer route to be marked subsequently. **ACTION MG, CT and JG.**

5. Reports from Groups:

a) **Keltneyburn Hydroscheme.** Covered above.

b) Education Activities; student visits

RP is no longer involved with the Rural Skills teaching at Pitlochry High School. His colleague will continue with this activity. The pupils taking part in the John Muir Trust Award scheme will continue to want to come to Dun Coillich. RP said that the new curriculum had a stronger emphasis on outdoor learning.

c) **Observation and Education Facility picnic table.** PJ and MJ had ordered a suitable table, to be delivered to the car park, having seen it at Gardening Scotland. Its position between the OEF and the Car Park was agreed. There was discussion about how best to anchor it to the site. After a number of suggestions, it was agreed to find out from RC how FC anchored their picnic tables. **ACTION PJ.** BHo noted that the south-facing wall of the building needs another coat of Butinox, and this could be a 'job' for 'Rural Skills' pupils.

d) **Maintenance, Fencing.** TF has recently walked the boundary fence and found no major problems.

e) **Visitor Access.** PJ suggested an additional fence between the ford and the new gate in the head-dyke to provide an ally-way keeping grazing Highland cattle separate from walkers accessing the hill. Others thought a change in existing gate opening would cost less and be less obtrusive. An on-site inspection was agreed **ACTION PJ, BHo.**

Access in case of fire on the hill was briefly discussed with respect to different parts of Dun Coillich. The hydroscheme road referred to above provides new access to the south-west. The road through the forestry plantations provides access to the north, and that access route is also convenient for tree planting and deer control. There is also good access to the east at White Bridge.

- f) **Bridge across Goulandie burn:** BHo said that a building warrant would be needed and possibly also planning permission. He will follow this through with P and K Council. **ACTION BHo.** It was suggested that Stuart McNeish might know if the army would help with construction.
- g) **Woodlands and WGS.:** A largish area(about 15 x 4 m) has been hand-dug in the nursery area enclosure and newly purchased plants of birch and Scots pine heeled-in, as well as the birch from the previous year that had over-wintered heeled-in in the field nearby. The entire area not occupied by trees has been sprayed with Roundup by JG to kill couch, nettles and docks. JG also reported that the heeled-in pines need to be spread out when the soil is not so dry. This initiated a discussion about the availability of water for irrigating plants in the nursery area. One suggestion was to pump water up from the burn; alternatively BHo suggested the possibility of a reservoir collecting water from higher up the slope or from the road, but no immediately practical solution was agreed upon. The rest of the area now needs to be cultivated and BH has found a rotavator. JG will contact him with information about the area to be rotavated. **ACTION JG.** Beating-up is needed on the far side of the hill in order that we qualify for the second WGS payment which becomes available, area by area, five years after planting, provided that the planting has proved satisfactory. It was agreed that we need an action plan for this, setting-out the areas and timing. **ACTION JG and PJ.** Three pairs of roe deer were seen by TF and PJ during the SWT walk on the previous Monday. However, no shooting will take place during the calving season.
- h) **Natural and Cultural Heritage.** Natural and Cultural Heritage: CT produced a detailed report of her plane table survey of sheiling huts on Dun Coillich. Ink drawings will follow. It was suggested that this interesting information should be included in a leaflet.

6. Treasurer's Report:

Our current financial position is as follows

Current account	£ 4474
Reserve account:	£ 5154
OEF account:	£ 5475

Since the previous meeting the main items of expenditure have been: £668 loan discharge, £558 insurance and £250 for construction of stepping stones. A £100 donation had been received from the Aberfeldy and District Inner Wheel, and £83 way-leave from SSEB.

7. Any Other Business: Risk assessment.

BH has added a paragraph, by email. CT will include this and present at our next meeting. **ACTION CT**

Pylon Line: BHo reported that the existing line would be replaced. The bases would be constructed this year but it would be 4 to 5 years before the new line functioned. After that the original line would be removed, the ground reinstated and the track removed. A low voltage (11,000 volts) to White Bridge and Tomphubil would be carried on spare arms of the new line and go under the Goulandie burn. Surveys of the flora and fauna along the banks would be carried out but the results would not be available to us. Borrow pits for hardcore would be required but SSEB are obliged to reinstate them so they could not be retained in order to act as a new habitat.

8. Future Meetings: The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 8th September 2010 at the home of Richard Paul, at 7:15 p.m.**

The meeting closed at 9:30 p.m.