

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust
Scottish Charity Number: SC032801

**Minutes of Trustees' Meeting held at Dun Coillich
on Tuesday 9th June, 2015 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Bill Hoare (chairman), Trish Waite, Ian Wilkinson,
Margaret Jarvis (minutes), Tim Fison, Willie McGhee

Apologies: Julie Gardiner, Richard Paul, Andy Pointer, Innes Smith, Harry Ross, Sandra Winter,

Minutes of previous meeting on 13th April 2015 : Approved after two minor corrections.

Matters arising: BH has not yet met Cameron Maxwell, Forestry Commission.
Work on the deer leap is progressing.

Finance : IW reported: In current account £11,757. £8157 received from Keltneyburn hydroscheme; OEF account unchanged. Outgoings less than anticipated because some tree planting deferred until autumn.

WGS: 5000 downy birch and 5000 Scots pine, bare-rooted, have been planted on the Schiehallion side of the hill; and 3000 Scots pine plugs above Whitebridge (plugs available of the right provenance). Innes Smith provided a quad bike for transport of plugs to the planting site. 6500 SP plugs are ordered for autumn planting. BH is aiming to produce maps of all the Woodland Grant Scheme planting, with costs, over the years. WMcG offered the services of a GPS expert to help with mapping and said that June was the best month for visibility of small trees on the hill. IW pointed out that the number of trees purchase was greater than the number planted. This discrepancy needs to be checked. The planters had planted about 300 trees per day each at 30p per plant. WMcG considered this reasonable.

A ewe and lamb were seen near the memorial bench: TF will contact Kirsty Bugloss to ask her to remove them. ACTION TF

The goat is still around but is proving elusive to the shooters.

A small water gate needs releasing. TW offered to deal with this, plus another. ACTION TW
Volunteer Week Event BH, plus TW and MJ manned a stall. Insufficient publicity was probably the reason for the small number of members of the public attending. However, we achieved a possible two more members, including an arborist, and an offer of a source for fencing materials. Councillor Howie was an interested visitor and a few people gave contact details to be informed about volunteer days

Visitors and events:

Clare Thomas will welcome a group of archaeologists.

The visit by RSPB was successful; 50 or so blackcock were seen on the lek.

The Yorkhill visit, two coach loads, was much enjoyed. SP from the nursery were planted and now look good.

The 'Roving Rockologists' a geology group from Perth, had much appreciated their visit, led by RP. The Beavers had a great time when they came. SW organised a Treasure Hunt; some did pond-dipping (a great diving beetle was a star).

Geography students from Breadalbane had visited twice and made hydrology measurements, but had not notified us.

Beaully-Denny BH and John Taylor had visited; the drainage ditch is still to be filled in. TF said that therer was cable to be removed. A further site visit is necessary. However, MJ will spread the meadow seed mix that she has. ACTION MJ

Way leave Further information from JL had been received. BH will discuss this with JL and may need to consult Colin Liddell.

'Centre of mainland Scotland' event.

TF, GS and MJ had met to discuss this. The event will be in September, at 2pm on Saturday, 5th, 12th or 19th, depending on the availability of Alan McCredy, who publicised it in The Scotsman and is keen to come. We will meet in the car park; possibly borrow a gazebo, or the Rannoch tea tent (suggested by IW as a possibility), provide refreshments, listen to AMcC, invite Kenneth Steven to write, and read, a poem. John Swinney had expressed interest, Pete Wishart and JK Rowling will be invited. Those who wish will then go to the actual site. TF and MJ had walked up to it from Whitebridge, through dense heather. The route from the hut will be tested by TF and TW; this would avoid driving to the Whitebridge car park. Good publicity will be essential, as soon as a date is firm.

Grants updates: WMcG reported that we have two thirds of the applied for grant from SSE, for one year, and he is hopeful about one third from Gannochy Trust; this depends on the Gannochy Trustees who meet in June. Franny McGrath of Breathe is very cooperative. WMcG will contact SNH at Battleby. If we are successful we will need a subgroup to organise the money and the training involved.

Website: Discussion about updating was deferred because of lack of time

A O B: WH had been approached by PKC in connection with the water supply to Whitebridge cottage. Confirmation that we still own the land was needed.

BH will email information about work party days; brash hedge making on Schiehallion on 27th June (JMT); tree maintenance 10th July on DC

WH will send a mini update to all members in July, following from one on 2nd May.

IW had met Bruce Auchterlonie on site and discussed carbon offset. He circulated informatory leaflets; decision will be deferred.

TW requested permission to purchase a wheelbarrow suitable for use in the tree nursery; this was approved.

Thanks were given to TF, RF and HR for all the tree planting they had done.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Date of next meeting:

11th August, 7.00 pm

at Laurelbank, Aberfeldy.