

# HIGHLAND PERTHSHIRE COMMUNITIES LAND TRUST

## Minutes of the meeting of HPCLT Trustees on Jan 11<sup>TH</sup> 2011 at Stillness, Weem at 19.20 h.

**Present:** Tim Fison, Ben Henderson, Paul Jarvis, Margaret Jarvis (minutes), Richard Paul, Andy Pointer, Clare Thomas (Chair)

**Apologies:** Rob Coope, Julie Gardiner, Margaret Gimblett and June Riddell. Rob Coope has tendered his resignation as a Trustee.

**Approval of Minutes of previous meeting, on September 8<sup>th</sup> 2010:** proposed by Tim Fison, seconded by Margaret Jarvis

**Matters arising:** Purchase of a replacement *picnic table* has been deferred until the spring. **ACTION MJ and PJ.**

TF will purchase *Butinox*, after consultation with Bill Hoare about type and colour, to be ready for PHS students to apply in April. **ACTION TF**

PJ had contacted Rab Robertson about the work needed to improve *visitor access* but had not heard back. PJ to take forward. **ACTION PJ**

Strimmings in the tree nursery area had been raked up but not burned. **ACTION PJ**

CT had added to the *risk assessment* and circulated the document on 28,11,10

BH, who has considerable experience of risk assessments, will check this revised version. He pointed out that the renewal date will now be Jan 2012 and that annual renewal is necessary. **ACTION BH**

*Display board:* AP and CT will plan this. **ACTION AP and CT**

**AGM arrangements:** PJ had booked the Locus Centre for Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup> from 14,00 to 17.00. Victor Clements had agreed to speak; title to be decided. **ACTION PJ**

PJ and Julie Gardiner must retire and are not eligible for re-election; RC and MG have resigned. Thus we urgently need more Trustees. Several possible names to be contacted were suggested by RP. RP proposed that Richard Legate be co-opted and this was seconded by BH and consequently adopted. Richard Legate will subsequently stand for election at the forthcoming AGM. TF will contact Innes Smith; RP will ask Helen McDade; MJ will contact Polly Freeman. PJ will contact Andrew Campbell and Andrew Thompson PJ will email the date by which nominations must be with Colin Liddell.

**ACTION PJ and ALL**

Contributions for the report on Trustees' activities are needed. PJ will email the deadline date. **ACTION PJ and ALL**

MJ will supply raffle tickets and also posters publicising the AGM and will organise their distribution. She will also publicise the event in Comment and the Quair etc. **ACTION MJ**

RP will draft a natural history quiz. **ACTION RP**

## Reports from Groups

*Woodlands and WGS* Before the snow fall 1000 birch had been purchased from Glen Isla and planted by Damien Fison and a friend. A GPS map of the area planted will be circulated. **ACTION MJ.** Alder and willow have been ordered for the necessary beating up in wet areas and will be collected when snow melt allows. PJ will check the date of first planting; inspection and payment of final grant is scheduled for five years after planting. **ACTION PJ**

*Natural and Cultural Heritage:* CT produced maps of sheiling sites; these are near the summit and include some circular- probably 18<sup>th</sup> century or earlier- and some rectangular - probably later. CT described them as 'unsubstantial' with ill-defined banks hard to detect.

*Keltneyburn Hydroscheme;* The £3000 way leave due annually in December had been paid.

*Education ; student visits:* Two dates (20<sup>th</sup> April and 27<sup>th</sup> April) had been fixed for visits of two groups of 18 Pitlochry High School S1 and S2 students. RP would like suggestions of possible activities, (in addition to Butinox application and planting some willow and alder) to be emailed to him. **ACTION ALL**

The visit of pupils, with Linda Watson, to the Duireaskin Arboretum had been marred by rain and by lack of time. PJ, who hosted it, thought it disappointing. The prepared questions had taken too long, leaving insufficient time to look at any trees.

As a result of the new curriculum for excellence, with an emphasis on outdoor learning, Grant Hadley, P and K Council, had set up a consultative committee. There is also an initiative for schools to make films outdoors; from Elspeth Grant, Cairngorms National Park). This may result in more use of Dun Coillich as a resource.

*OEF;* TF reported a leak around the west-facing window. He will discuss this with Bill Hoare. **ACTION TF**

*Maintenance and Fencing;* BH mentioned a hole in the fencing at the lay-by. However, although deer go in and out here, the inner fence is undamaged.

RC, who has now resigned as a Trustee, had offered to report on the condition of all the fences and will be asked for this. **ACTION PJ** The kissing gate by White Bridge needs some repair which BH will carry out. He also offered to add Rylock to the fence along the plantation edge, where roe deer go in and out at will **ACTION BH**. PJ emphasised the need to keep the deer out in order to ensure the survival of the small trees.

**Visitor Access: nothing new to report. BH will put a padlock on the gate to the plantation, which is sometimes left open, after consulting the Forestry Commission. ACTION BH**

**Treasurer's Report:** The accounts for the financial year ending 30.11.10 had been approved and signed by Tim Ambrose. Copies were circulated. The annual way leave payment of £3000 had been received from Keltneyburn Hydroscheme.

There is £6148 in the current account; £5155 in the reserve account and £5498 in the OEF account.

**Any other Business:** AP suggested lowering the annual subscription in order to increase membership, as the income from subs is now only a small proportion of total income. This will be discussed at the AGM.

RP suggested producing a flyer giving information about Dun Coillich; this could be emailed to guest houses. There was general agreement that a notice board showing possible walking routes was essential to attract visitors. These could be marked by simple wooden posts, available from Bobby Robertson's sawmill. All are asked to produce a map of possible routes for the next meeting. **ACTION ALL**

CT was thanked for her hospitality

**Date of next meeting:** 7.15 pm Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March at Stillness