

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust
Scottish Charity Number: SC032801

**Minutes of Trustees' Meeting held at Laurenbank Aberfeldy
on Thursday 11th February, 2016 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Bill Hoare (chairman), Margaret Jarvis (minutes), Richard Paul, Ian Wilkinson, Tim Fison

Apologies: Julie Gardiner, Willie McGhee, Harry Ross, Gordon Stronach, Trish Waite

Minutes of previous meeting on 14th December 2015: Approved.

Matters arising: The plastic poles left on site had been uplifted by Balfour Beattie.

The White Bridge planting plan had been approved by P and K Council.

Capitalisation of the wayleave payment had still not been approved: BH will chase this **ACTION BH**
'Heartlander' has reported that landowners might be out of pocket because rental payments have been too low.

The memorial planting photographs were delayed by snow and still need to be done. **ACTION BH**

Finances. IW expressed concern that the separate Reserve Business Account for the OEF had ca £300 less in it than shown on the spreadsheet. However, the total in the two accounts is correct so no action is required for accountancy reasons. The interest rate on the Reserve Account is now so low that it could be amalgamated with the current account, particularly as a separate account will be advisable for grant money. **ACTION IW and Tim Ambrose**

IW reported that Membership was as follows at present: 91 names on list

25 paid £10

15 paid £20

5 honorary (one still paying £20)

4 life members

1 independent examiner

47 have not paid this year; 34 have not paid for two years; 22 have not paid for three years

BH pointed out that grant availability is affected by size of membership as are voting rights. Any decisions were deferred as so few Trustees were present.

AGM: Innes Smith, Jim Low and Harry Ross are resigning and not seeking re-election BH has received their resignation emails. RP has to resign after 3 terms. Possible future Trustees were discussed. It was agreed that Rannoch Facebook should ask if anyone was interested in joining the trustees **ACTION RP**

BH has sent announcements of the AGM to Quair, The Bridge, Pitlochry Live, Heartlander He will contact Heartland Buzz and Heartland Radio nearer the time. He will collect the hall key, erect screens etc, and find out if there is wifi. **ACTION BH.** Other displays will be needed. **ACTION ALL**

RP produced a poster which was generally approved. He will add the charity number and use the 'Tempus sans itc' font for the heading, **ACTION RP**

BH will contact Mel Bon, local journalist **who writes for the Perthshire Advertiser ACTION BH**
Catering will be needed. RP will ask Sandra Winter to help **ACTION RP**

Emma Rawlings will be hosted by Trish Waite.

A volunteer is needed to take the brief AGM Minutes as MJ will be away. **ACTION ALL**

Trees: Survey data received from WMcG was tabled. He has ordered the 3000 trees needed for this spring. This will be discussed with JG. BH tabled a spreadsheet showing most of the planting history in terms of costs and species (not locations). It was agreed that HPCLT should take the initiative in seeking a meeting with the Forestry Commission. BH will arrange a meeting of JG and WMcG to finalise this. **ACTION BH**

Herbivore management: Three sheep have been removed by their owner; the goat has not been seen. BH has asked Rob Coope to keep up pressure on deer before the season closes. Bob Macdonald is assisting. Sandy McAdam has been asked for an estimate for an alkathene watergate. Recent repairs have been washed away by fresh floods.

Project officer: £5000 grant is now in the current account. Four people have expressed interest in the post after articles by WMcG appeared in The Quair and Heartland Buzz

Pylon site and Whitebridge area: Fencing around the bellmouth is now re-done. Before and after photos are on Facebook, Trees have been ordered from Alba Trees by MJ. Pitlochry S1 pupils will plant some on their visit on 9th March. Tubes and stakes will need to be transported to Whitebridge. **ACTION RP. BH** will arrange a date for a follow-up work party. Old carpet would be useful for weed control at the base of the planted trees. BH reported that the Roads Department will look at the collapsing verge south of White Bridge. Rob Robertson has been asked to quote for constructing a fence built a little way inside the slope at that point.

Activities and Visits: Pitlochry HS S1 is the only definite arrangement so far.

Wildlife: No new reports

Site upkeep: a small team to organise storage for materials currently in or by the hut is needed. Barhaul is a possible source of large bags (they are normally only used once). Volunteers in addition to TW?

AOB: BH said that we have no problem with Sandy McAdam's proposed new planting on the south-facing slope south of DC, to be agreed with FC, provided that access is not impeded.

Liz Auty had asked RP for help with construction of a 2m by 4m bridge on Schiehallion, to allow sheep to leave JMT land. RP had asked TF. Action????

Ann-Marie McMaster had been made redundant because of lack of funding, so mink-monitoring in the area is no longer taking place. The raft on DC has been destroyed by the floods

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm with thanks to Bill and Sue for their hospitality.

Date of next meeting:

To be arranged by BH, date to be soon after the AGM