

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Minutes of Meeting of Trustees held on Tuesday, 12th October 2004, at Duireaskin, Aberfeldy at 7.15 p.m.

Present: Lynnette Borraille, Gordon Evans, Marjorie Finlayson, Bill Hoare, Marjorie Keddie, Robin Hull, Paul Jarvis (Chairman), Hamish Nicholson, Andy Pointer, Margaret Jarvis (Minutes Secretary).

1. **Apologies:** Ruth Atkinson, Julie Gardiner, Innes Smith.
2. **Minutes of previous meeting on 13th September:** approved.
3. **Matters arising:** *Woodland Project.* BH wondered whether cutting the heather rather than burning was an option. PJ thought it might be but made the point that we had been advised by Hamish Murray. LB and AP also favoured cutting rather than burning if this were practical. MF considered that we should follow the advice given by the FC since they were being so helpful. PJ pointed out that scraping before mounding was another possibility but would take longer and therefore might increase costs. It was agreed that burning should be the last resort.

Ravens over the Hill. RH reported that the proofs had been corrected and returned and that the book should be ready in time for the party. There will be a review in the October issue of 'Comment'. The projected budget for the party was accepted and it was agreed that HPCLT will cover any costs up to about £150. RH thought the publisher might agree to pay for the hall. Guest lists were circulated. All were asked to send any further suggestions of guests to RH as soon as possible. All Trustees are invited and are asked to RSVP to Gillian Hull (GE and BH will not be able to attend) **ACTION ALL.** PJ will write to JKR to invite her. **ACTION PJ.** After some discussion the time of 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. was agreed.

Floral decorations will be provided by MJ and others. **ACTION MJ.** BH suggested having a display of progress by HPCLT. LB will obtain display boards; AP and PJ will provide photographs. **ACTION LB, PJ and AP.** Malcolm Appleby may have a design of a raven and a hill by then; if so, this will be on display.

MK, LB, MF, and MJ will help with food. Sue Hoare will also help (but will be away on the day)

ACTION MK, LB, MF, MJ, SH

4. **Car Park:** PJ reported that Fresh Futures had again refused funding for the car park: the rejection letter was read out. PJ expressed his disappointment and regret that Fresh Futures had not defined their criteria for success earlier; this had caused a considerable waste of time and effort. PJ suggested that we must now make a start on the car park; we could invest in a fence around the area. BH pointed out that this would only enable 4 by 4s to park. PJ agreed but said that this would enable volunteers to start to create the approved opening; any further funding application would result in another long delay. The entrance and the line of sight is the critical point for the local authority. He is very keen to get something moving and thought we could then seek more funds, or donations for this specific project; RH pointed out that donations could be in kind and that relevant offers had been made. AP wondered if we should rethink the location of the car park but RH pointed out that this was ideal for the proposed scrape and hide. LB thought there might be an argument for contacting the local authority access officer, in view of the new access legislation. She thought the Dry Stone Walling Association might put up a wall at no cost. There was a general feeling that a simple car park would be acceptable. It was agreed that PJ should seek quotes for the fence and a gate, including from Sandy McAdam and Donald Riddell, and that LB would contact Breadalbane Academy, since the Land Group had expressed interest in a fencing activity. **ACTION PJ and LB.** MF asked about insurance cover for volunteers; PJ confirmed that we had this. AP wondered if it would be possible to 'borrow' BP volunteers from JMT.

5. **Woodland Project:** The contractor is likely to start before the end of October. White and yellow markers will be put out to mark the limestone areas to be avoided. **ACTION PJ and JG.** PJ said that he spoken with Colin Liddell and checked that the financial side was all organised; the contract is to be for five years, to correspond with the WGS, and there will be no legal costs incurred. PJ will write to thank the Volant Trust. **ACTION PJ.** PJ and GE will decide where to place the money when we receive it; PJ will find out from the Treasurer what rate of interest we receive at present. **ACTION PJ and GE**
HN asked about progress with kissing gates. Hamish Murray will put them in shortly but has been delayed.
6. **R.S.S:** IS had e-mailed to say that the RSS has been approved. PJ will ask him to circulate details. A work plan will be needed, for which there will be income attached.
ACTION PJ
7. **Work Parties;** there have been no work parties since the last meeting. BH has now put proper latches and hinges on two of the three gates and will soon have done the third. He walked the whole perimeter today : except for the water gate there had been no damage from the torrential rain in August ; the fences along the Schiehallion and FC marches are in good order. There were three goats at the side of the Allt Mor burn. BH will contact Sandy McAdam about them. **ACTION BH.** There are large numbers of deer on the hill to the SW of Dun Coillich, making it essential to get the water gate repaired; BH will consult with S. McAdam and Donald Riddell about the best way to do this. **ACTION BH.** BH pointed out that the fences near the ford, which collapsed as a result of the August floods, are now creating a hazard and needed to be cleared. He will arrange a date for us to do this. **ACTION BH**
BH pointed out that all should keep a record of the volunteer hours spent ; this could help with funding. **ACTION ALL**
8. **Any other business:** Grazing by cattle of the field and ESA areas had taken place more or less according to the agreement with Alec Murray. The result was not entirely satisfactory.: The vegetation has been well trampled but not sufficiently grazed, possibly because it was not sufficiently palatable because the grazing was rather late in the year. The cattle had got out onto the hill from White Bridge, through an opened gate. They were then brought back for four to five days only, so the grazing pressure at White Bridge was less than desired, although the heather has been trampled and broken. The situation needs to be reviewed before next year's grazing takes place.

BH asked if it might be appropriate now to put up a notice with the name of the property, together with some information.(It was noted that the notices about poisoned rabbits are still in place). PJ agreed that this is a good idea; RH though we should wait for visible change on the land. It was agreed to leave this for the time being.

RH had been in contact with the BBC about a series of radio programmes, '*Changing Places*' on community-owned land. They had seemed interested but so far there had been no follow-up.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 15th November 2004.