

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust
Scottish Charity Number: SC032801

**Minutes of Trustees' Meeting held at Duireaskin, Aberfeldy
on Monday 13th April, 2015 at 7.00 pm.**

Present: Bill Hoare (chairman), Richard Paul, Harry Ross, Gordon Stronach, Trish Waite, Ian Wilkinson, Margaret Jarvis (minutes), Willie McGhee

Apologies: Innes Smith, Sandra Winter, Tim Fison,

Minutes of previous meeting on 5th February 2015: Approved (prop BH, sec IW)

Matters arising: None.

Finance : IW reported: In hand £16,728; expected outgoings £15,258(costs of trees , planting, phosphate, legal fees and insurance). Planting costs at present are 30p per tree, an increase to 35p has been requested and was considered reasonable by WM.

The balance at the end of the year will be less than usual because of the tree-planting. However the offer of an advance payment by Keltneyburn Hydroscheme will probably not need to be taken up.

AGM 2015 This had gone smoothly, with an interesting talk by Ron Greer and at least two new members joining.

BH was re-elected formally at this meeting (proposed RP, seconded HR).

IW thought that an attendance list at future AGMs would be useful. This was agreed.

RP warned that sufficient available technology, e.g. extra laptops, might be essential.

Jim Anderson had intimated willingness to be co-opted as a trustee. BH will follow up. ACTION BH

WGS: WM informed the meeting that the FC Area Conservator was now Cameron Maxwell, who had replaced Syd House. IW reported that he was meeting Bruce Auchterlonie from FC in England on site on 16th April to discuss Carbon Offset. WM added that FC had a 'Woodland Carbon Code' but he did not think this initiative would be relevant to DC.

Culling

The deer count on 21st March had worked well: 10 roe hinds had been recorded; the stalkers had subsequently shot 7. Three roe were seen on 29th March.

WM repeated his strong opinion that a professional stalker should be employed. He offered money 'on the table' for this and added that a licence for culling out-of-season can be obtained from SNH. RP thought we should accept the offer or give a reason why not. BH expressed his frustration at lack of commitment from trustees. IW thought we should apply for the licence and discuss the situation with the volunteer stalkers. BH will apply for the licence and speak to Rob Coope. ACTION BH
BH wants a full, thorough review of the Woodland Grant Scheme situation so that an informed decision about future action can be made. He pointed out that natural regeneration was going well. (WM added that deer prefer the more nutritious nursery-raised stock). He also mentioned the need for a work party to check trees in tubes for weeds, loose stakes etc.

Fencing: BH emphasised the need for ongoing fence maintenance. RP will attend to this, particularly along the forestry march and the gate at Whitebridge, which needs a temporary bottom in advance of a new gate. IW will send RP the list of members' emails so that all can be asked to join a work party. ACTION IW, RP

A professional fencer will be needed for a new gate and for the post-and-rail fence required by planning consent after reinstatement by SSE is complete.

Cameras have been placed to monitor the perimeter fence. BH will liaise with Liz Auty on this. ACTION BH

Deer leap: work on construction of a deer leap will begin at a work party on 5th May. The exit onto Schiehallion has been agreed to. RP explained that necessary materials are available on site. He will publicise the date and meeting time and place to all members. ACTION RP

Visitors and events: The visit by S1 from Pitlochry HS had been satisfactory. One activity had been a line search of evidence of badgers in the old pine wood. The moths caught in the moth trap, fox and pine marten droppings were examined and trees planted.

Beavers will visit on 1st May at 6.30. They will do pond-dipping and some tree planting. RP will liaise with them; TF and MJ will help. ACTION RP, TF, MJ

Cubs will visit soon also; they wish to plant trees. HR will liaise with leaders. Rob Coope will help. ACTION HR

There will be a visit from the Sick Kids Hospital, Yorkhill to Schiehallion (one of the wards is so-called). This will involve 20 families and 100 or so people, who will need ca 20 trees to plant. Rob and Becky Coope wish to help. TW will organise the trees, from the nursery. ACTION TW

The RSPB will have an evening visit to the blackcock lek on 29th March, viewing from the sheep bank on Schiehallion, from 5 to 7 pm.

The 'Centre of Scotland's location on DC will be celebrated. This event is to be organised by TF and MJ who will involve GS, Liz Auty and the Smiths of White Cottage

Geologists from St Andrews took refuge in the hut for lunch on 13th April.

Grants updates: Nothing firm to minute yet but a positive announcement is hoped for soon. Thanks were given to WM for his work on the applications.

White bridge update:

The construction site around the pylon base has been levelled but not much stone has been removed. The drain has yet to be filled in. It is currently a 'man trap' 100 yards long. This, together with the access route and improvement of the turning circle, should be done by mid July. MJ has a suitable seed mix from Scotia seeds to use when possible. ACTION MJ

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

A O B:

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm, with thanks to MJ for hosting.

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 9th June, 7.00 pm

at the hut.