

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Minutes of Meeting of Trustees held on Tuesday 16 May 06 at Duireaskin, Aberfeldy, at 7.15 p.m.

Present: Tim Fison, Julie Gardiner, Paul Jarvis (Chairman), Margaret Jarvis (Treasurer), Andrew Pointer, Clare Thomas, Bill Hoare (Minutes Secretary pro tem), Robin Hull (Co-optee).

1) Apologies: Gordon Evans, Innes Smith, Philip Campbell

Trustees unanimously endorsed Robin Hull joining the board as a co-opted Trustee.

2. Minutes of previous meeting on 22 Feb 06: approved.

3. Matters arising: Chairman reported that Philip Campbell had advised him that he was off to China mid-summer for a year and had felt he should resign. Trustees felt he should remain on the list as a Trustee.

4. Report on the AGM and matters arising: Chairman reported that the AGM was poorly attended with very many apologies. There had been a very good talk by Colin Liddell on the subject of "Community Right to Buy". Irvine Butterfield had attended, was very positive about what HPCLT was doing and gave a generous donation to the Trust. The Trust is still short of Trustees; existing Trustees to give thought to who might be approached. **Action: All.** The Trust is very grateful to Malcolm Appleby for his donation of a silver prize at the AGM. Trustees must carefully consider time and place for the AGM in 2007 in order to try and improve attendance. **Action: All**

5. Reports from Groups and matters arising:

a. Woodlands and WGS. Report by Julie. Planting is near completion. Is very much in sympathy with the land. If no disasters befall, it should be ecologically very good. Planter Alan Ross reported seeing, or seeing signs of, badger, otter, pine marten, water vole. He hoped to survey the latter shortly. Trustees were encouraged to also do a little planting and monitoring. **Action: All.** Several thousand trees will be put aside ready for beating up in the autumn. Invoices for the planting will be forthcoming shortly. A formal letter of thanks to be sent to Alan Ross. **Action: Paul.** Julie advised that more timber was about to be extracted from FC land and care must therefore be exercised when going to DC tree planting area. **Action: All.**

b. Access and Car Park. Question of stile between DC and Schiehallion was raised. **Action: Paul.** To contact Andrew Campbell of the Schiehallion group who has offered assistance. Signage – Pity about the use of Community rather than Communities on the signs, but no action to be taken to correct at this stage. After some discussion, it was decided that the third sign should be erected on DC land just inside the gate from the Forestry close to where tree planting has been done. An increasing number of people seem to be using this track to access DC and Schiehallion. **Action: Philip.** Regarding the Car Park, Paul reported that the application to Forward Scotland (Aggregate Fund) had been rejected. Further, discussion with R Gordon (PKC) indicated that unless a start on the car park is made within 4 months, then we risk losing the £7500 already awarded. There are no other funding applications in the pipeline. Some WGS monies may be available within a month or two. Julie reported that Bill Stewart had indicated there was a "borrow pit" close to the proposed carpark site and it should not be a big job to get something done in terms of carpark surface. Trustees agreed that the cost of doing just the carpark entrance (bell mouth, cattle grid, fencing) based on the existing plans should be determined. **Action: Paul to draw up spec, Paul to approach W Grieve, Julie to approach Bill Stewart, Tim to approach Sandy McAdam as potential contractors. Paul to advise R Gordon of situation and proposals. Paul to ask J Stewart to act as our "technical adviser" when speaking with would-be contractors on site.**

c. Wildlife Observation Facility. Robin reported that just over £5000 had been raised from membership, One third of the cost up to a maximum of £10000 had been promised by the "Quality of Life Trust", one application to Forward Scotland was in the pipeline, with others still to be tried. £1000

from the James Thin Trust was conditional upon the carpark, and, in effect, all applications/offers were similarly conditional as without a carpark, there could not be wheelchair access to the facility.

d. Maintenance, fencing, and RSS. Replanting of sacrificial crop should be done shortly. Fencing along 300m on north side of Allt Mhor, between the Deer Park and the water gate, has been repaired/improved by TF and BH. More work in the vicinity of the water gate is needed and the gate from our paddocks on to the hill needs to be made higher, **Action: Bill.** Improvement of scrapes, organisation of grazing, and a perimeter fence survey to be arranged by the group. Paul reported that the fence along the boundary with Schiehallion seemed to be OK on a recent visit. Paul reported that more trees had been planted in the area close to the sacrificial crop and that tubes and stakes were available should others want to plant more.

e. Natural and Cultural Heritage and Archive Subcommittee:

Clare reported that she had attended a session with the very helpful PKC Archivist. Clare indicated the possible scope of our future archive. Robin welcomed it as a home for the all the data etc he has collected. H Nicholson to be asked to continue to assist even though no longer a Trustee. **Action: Clare.** Andy offered to do storage on hard disc. It was pointed out that some fixed point photography had been done in the past; this needs documenting so that comparisons can be made in future.

f. Keltneyburn Hydro Scheme: Paul reported that the developers expect resolution of the outstanding environmental problems shortly. Final contracts are due from KBH lawyers. John McDiarmid was coordinating all landlords' needs, but progress on this not known. **Action: Paul.**

g. Education. Tim reported that Kenmore Primary had visited in January, and that Breadalbane Academy Land-Based Studies Group had had three visits and a photo shoot, all associated with the tree planting. Other sorts of activity (perhaps dry stone dyking) are needed for this group so that the impetus can be maintained. A poems/painting day is proposed for Aug/Sep with an invitation to all five primary schools. Contact has been established with Lorna McGregor, the coordinator for schools outdoor activities. Detail of our obligations under Child Protection legislation is being obtained. With the resignation of Lynette, and extended absence of Philip, additional members are now needed for this group. **Action: All.**

h. PR and Website. With Philip to be absent, new person needed. **Action: Margaret** to approach Ann Partridge. Meanwhile, **Paul** to send Trustees AGM report to Andy for website. Andy requested good pictures for the website. **Action; All.** HPCP want reference to DC on their website, **Action: Tim and Andy** to liaise with HPCP. **Bill** to do walks promotion article in Comment. **Julie** to ask Alan Ross for article for Comment/HPCLT website. Plea for more detail on subject line on emails. **Action: All.**

6. Treasurer's Report. Margaret reported that the Observ Fac funds stood at £5277. RSS had received £6300 and had so far spent £2048. WGS was major item; to date expenditure £64865 (Mounding, trackwork, trees and some planting), income from FC £23625. **Paul and Julie** to progress subsequent of WGS grants, including that for regeneration.

7. Any other business. Bill reported that Alec Murray had spoken about foxes taking his lambs. No action to be taken as no proof of source of foxes. Question of Alec Towns and/or Sandy McAdam also being permitted to shoot deer on DC was deferred for consideration by Innes. **Action: Bill.** **Bill to approach** Ian Wotherspoon regarding spraying of bracken later this year and get some details for the Trust to consider. Reminder to all groups that with Trustees only meeting four times a year, groups must meet, must progress, and must report.

8. Next Meetings – Note some Date Changes.

Monday 31 July 06 – Location tbc (Tim to approach Weem Hotel)

Monday 6 Nov 06 – Location. Cluain (Bill's house near Fortingall)

Tuesday 13 Feb 07 - location tbd