

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Minutes of Meeting of Trustees held on Thursday 18 August 2011 at 7:15 p.m. at Dun Coillich

Present: Richard Paul, Linda Cracknell, Tim Fison, Margaret Jarvis (minutes), Paul Jarvis, Richard Legate, Andy Pointer, James Shorthouse, Trish Waite, Ian Wilkinson.

Russ Jobson, Woodland Trust had been invited to attend to tell us about the Jubilee woodland project. RP and TF had walked over possible sites with Andrew Campbell, Woodland Trust, two weeks ago, to assess the possibility of having a Jubilee woodland site on Dun Coillich. RJ explained that these sites are half hectare or more in area and must involve community engagement, especially of young people. The sites should be visible and have easy access. They will be listed in a book to be presented to the Queen. Tree packs containing up to 420 trees will be available. These will be native species and of local provenance as far as possible. After RJ had left the feeling of the meeting was positive; involvement of Pitlochry High School pupils could be arranged (RP) and the publicity value would be welcome. A sub-committee (TW, AP, JS, PJ and MJ) will meet on site at 7 p m on 22nd August to decide on, and measure, the best area. The areas immediately around the hut were likely. AP was concerned that future building of some kind should remain a possibility. MJ will email RP the result of this meeting and he will contact the Woodland Trust. **ACTION MJ, PJ, AP, TW, JS**

1. Apologies: Ben Henderson, June Riddell, Clare Thomas

2. Minutes of previous meeting on 13th May 2011: Approved (prop MJ, sec TW)
[A request was made by AP that circulated documents be sent in RTF]

3. Matters Arising:

Welcome: LC, attending for the first time, and IW, newly co-opted, were welcomed. IW's co-option was endorsed unanimously.

RP had consulted with Colin Liddell and confirmed that we could have 12 elected Trustees (there are currently 11) plus up to three co-opted. It was agreed to ask Robin Hull if he would like to be co-opted **ACTION RP**. We also need a secretary. All were asked to try to find one! The minute-taking will rotate until we succeed. **ACTION ALL**

Walking routes: CT and AP will be responsible for this. There will be a route across Dun Coillich for Duke of Edinburgh Award candidates, a shorter walk in the vicinity of the car park etc. **ACTION CT, AP**

Grants: RP is in the process of applying for a Griffin Wind Farm grant, with a September deadline. A successful outcome would fund future fence repair/renewal. **ACTION RP**

PJ emphasised that the second payment of the large WGS grant depended on there being sufficient viable trees

RP will email information about some other small grants which might be applied for. **ACTION RP**

4. Maintenance and fencing:

Tom Smeaton has installed a new gate from the road, by the enclosure; TW has repaired the dry stone dyke by the gate and removed the various bits of metal. RP, TF and TW have been working on the roadside fence and will continue to do so.

The fence from Braes of Foss to the hydroscheme intake requires repair before the winter, when invading deer would browse the planted trees. Various fencing contractors have been asked to quote for renewal and repair. Complete renewal is too expensive. Rab Robertson has agreed to be paid over two years- a helpful gesture which we may call on in future. However, it has been agreed to accept Sandy Macadam's quotation; he will be able to start the work almost immediately; renewing many of the posts and adding wire mesh designed to prevent deer getting in. He will guarantee the work for 15 years. He has liaised with CT about any relevant archaeological features.

JS said that the previously used fencing material offered to us by JMT might not be easy to re-use because of the extra labour involved.

Deer:

JS, BH and Rob Coope have reported that the large number of red deer recently seen on Dun Coillich have now gone; three stags and eight roe have been shot

5. Membership, recruitment and publicity:

LC is organising a writing group meeting on Dun Coillich four times a year. The first date was 3rd July. A sonnet was composed, to be published in 'Comment' and 'Quair' and placed on the web site. MJ will check that this can be done directly. **ACTION MJ**

AP has often suggested that decrease in the £10 annual subscription would result in increased membership. A DEFINITE DECISION ABOUT THIS WILL BE MADE AT THE NEXT MEETING

6. Education

RP (just retired) will continue to organise visits by Pitlochry High School pupils. He will also contact Breadalbane Community Campus and has already been in contact with Perth museum and Stirling University. Stirling is interested in the archaeological aspects and will contact CT.

7. Visitor access

A simple bridge downstream from the gorge would be easiest and could be done without planning permission and building control. JS will take this on, together with BH, AP, RL, with action by November. **ACTION JS**

8. Natural and Cultural Heritage

TW has seen what could well have been a rough-legged buzzard.

MJ and TF have spread seed of yellow rattle (a hemi-parasite which inhibits grass growth), gathered, with permission, from the SWT Keltneyburn reserve. MJ has also spread seed of red campion and of foxgloves.

TF and helpers have cut grass on large areas around the hut, using a machine kindly lent by Malcolm Appleby. TF will arrange a date for raking and burning this **ACTION TF and ALL**

9. Treasurer's report: Details of income and expenditure will be circulated by email. At present there is £13,820.26 in the bank accounts, plus £4012.84 in the O.E.F. account .

AOB:

The hut door sticks: PJ will ask Burnside joiners to look at it **ACTION PJ**

PJ re-emphasised the need to have thriving trees in order to qualify for the second, substantial, WGS payment

TF was enthusiastic about having a party! He will email suggested dates **ACTION TF**

RL, secretary of the Loch Rannoch Conservation Organization, told the meeting about a forth-coming visit to LULEA, Sweden, and Eire in connection with the Transitional Co-operation Project (Fishing for Tourism, funded by leader funding. RP has written a letter of support on behalf of HPCLT. A return visit will be made and participants area expected to visit Dun Coillich

IW might wish to have some beehives on Dun Coillich; he spoke of the difficulties involved; theft of beehives, with bees, was now a real risk. It might be possible to set up an observation hive in summer **ACTION IW**

The next meeting will be held on

Thursday, 24th November 2011 at 7:15 p.m. at the home of Trish Waite, Camserney