

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Minutes of Meeting of Trustees held on Tuesday, 19th July 2005, at Cluain, Fortingall, at 7.15 p.m.

Present: Gordon Evans, Tim Fison, Bill Hoare, Marjorie Keddie, Paul Jarvis (Chairman), Hamish Nicholson, Andrew Pointer, Innes Smith, Margaret Jarvis (Minutes Secretary).

1. **Apologies:** Lynnette Borradaile, Phillip Campbell, Julie Gardiner, Clare Thomas
2. **Minutes of previous meeting on 17th May 2005 and matters arising**
Minutes approved
3. **KBH-scheme ballot:** Papers for the ballot of Ordinary Members for granting KBH Ltd a lease of a small area of land at the inlet were sent out on Monday 27th June. The total number of Ordinary Members on that day was 87. The ballot period was set to close on 31st July. Colin Liddell had reported the current result, with 13 days remaining for voting, as follows: 77 votes cast, 71 in favour; 6 against. Since a 75% majority of the electorate is required (i.e. 66) the result is clearly in favour of granting a lease. PJ was thanked for his efforts in writing to the members. John Allen had been the only member attending the open meeting on 14th July at the Locus Centre. He has written to PJ to express his thanks for the opportunity.
PJ will write to the electorate individually, and to the Volant Trust, after 31st July, to inform them of the result. KBH Ltd will be notified formally and there will also be an announcement in Comment. **ACTION PJ**
4. **RSS progress report:** IS reported that the seeded area had been sown and was growing satisfactorily. He clarified that the RSS had been running for two years of its five-year duration; we had received £1200, paid in arrears for the first year, and the second payment is due in September.
BH and IS will meet with Pete Webster, stockman for Alec Murray, to arrange the grazing necessary after 31st July. Six cattle or up to 16 tups had been offered. Last year there were too many cattle, too late. BH will shift the electric fence to protect the sown sacrificial crop. **ACTION BH.**
BH had a letter from the Wayleave Officer of the Electricity Board, Garry Knox. One new pylon on our land is proposed. A small rental of a few hundred pounds per year would be paid. A 4 m-wide access road of crushed stone will be needed. It was suggested that this stone might subsequently be useful for the car-park, but PJ pointed out that nothing would happen for some years. AP and TF thought we might oppose the pylon either on principle or on the grounds of loss of amenity. PJ and IS consider that we should first find out the views of other organisations involved, e.g., LINK and the Cairngorms National Park. BH will continue to liaise with Garry Knox and will tell him that we may register an objection via another forum. **ACTION PJ and BH**
5. **WGS report:** In the absence of JG, PJ pointed out that planting time was approaching. Plants have been ordered by JG. He explained that FC had an advisory role and at JG's request, he had asked Hamish Murray for *pro forma* FC tender documents, as in the case of the mounding. These would be modified for our purpose and sent to three or more likely contractors, including Willy Shorthouse. Volunteer help would certainly not be excluded. BH pointed out that insurance must be available and that volunteers must be included in any contract. TF urged that we encourage schools, both primary and secondary, to be involved, possibly by having particular areas for which they would be responsible. After some discussion of the difficulties, and possible ways forward, it was agreed that TF will co-ordinate efforts as follows: TF will approach Grantully Primary, IS Pitlochry High School, and BH Alec Towns at Breadalbane Academy. IS will also speak to Alan

Drever and AP will speak to Elizabeth Leighton. Contacting the P and K director of Education and organisations such as Scouts are other options. **ACTION TF, IS, BH, AP.**

6. **Bracken:** Several Trustees had spent two evenings assessing the regeneration of trees through the bracken in the vicinity of the bridle path. HN reported that the number of tree seedlings coming up through the bracken was disappointingly small. PJ added that there was evidence of continuing browsing; many seedlings had tops eaten off and that trees must be taller than 50 cm to qualify for grant. GE emphasised that sufficient regeneration was worth £12,000 per year for three years; we have a loan to repay and cash-flow must be borne in mind. However, the regen payment is a small fraction of the total WGS payment. Without combating the bracken PJ thought that regeneration would be patchy at best. IS said that combating the bracken effectively would be very expensive and would need to be repeated for several years. Willy Shorthouse could spray by hand; helicopter spraying would be prohibitively expensive. PJ will ask Hamish Murray (FC) for advice on this.

ACTION PJ.

Several Trustees had also been out strimming bracken on the RSS White Bridge area, as part of the RSS commitment. Two patches had been cleared. It was acknowledged that this would need to be an ongoing action.

7. **Fence repair and maintenance:** PJ had accepted the quotation from A.McADAM FENCING of £700 for repair of the deer fence on the south side of the Allt Mor. The work had been completed by 15th July and the invoice was awaited. BH will check the work next week. **ACTION BH.**

The water-gate had not been included (no evidence of incursion by deer). Sandy McAdam had suggested a new type of water-gate made of blue polypropylene tubing and wire. BH will discuss this with him, as well as the fence between the deer park and DC. SM had previously offered to repair this, preferably above the dyke, if we supply materials. BH would like to know how much cash is available for fence repairs. PJ would also like the dyke to be repaired. However, this is not where deer get in, and there are no longer any goats at Glengoulandie, so the latter is not urgent. PJ reported that HM had put in the proposed kissing gate in the northern boundary, but it still needs a means to stop roe deer getting through and under it. PJ has a latch to put on and a grid to hang below it, as a temporary measure. **ACTION PJ**

8. **Vegetation surveys:** PJ and MJ have made a preliminary list of species on the limestone areas and will add to this. TF asked if photographic surveys were being done. Some photographs have been taken but nothing systematic.

9. **Deer management discussion:** Ian Wotherspoon of Glen Lyon estate had written to BH. He has very different objectives from HPCLT: he wishes to manage the Garth/Glen Lyon deer and would like deer that penetrate onto DC to be herded out rather than shot. This had been discussed some months previously and was not considered a practical option by IS and our stalkers. John Craig of the Deer Commission Scotland (DCS) Stirling office has advised PJ that we are well within our rights to shoot all deer on DC at any time. He had also pointed out that if the neighbouring estates were sufficiently concerned they could be asked to contribute to the maintenance of the deer fence. In view of the money at risk with the WGS if deer continue to browse the regen and, in the future, the planted tree seedlings, it was agreed that we must stick to a policy of zero tolerance. It was agreed that BH would explain our policy of zero tolerance, and the financial implications of deer incursion, to Ian Wotherspoon, while maintaining good relations. **ACTION BH.**

It was noted in passing that JMT will take over full control of deer on East Schiehallion in two years time and are likely to shoot them comprehensively in order to attain natural regeneration without fencing, the policy of the Local Group and the JMT Management Plan.

A decision as to whether to apply to join the Breadalbane Deer Management group was deferred. As a member, HPCLT would have access to data on deer numbers and culls on all estates within the DMG. Our stalkers had kept records of the number and sex of all the deer they had shot.

It was suggested that more regular patrols would be needed after the trees were planted in the autumn. Sandy McAdam had offered to do this, with payment in kind. The advantage would be that he is on site. A decision on this was deferred for later discussion.

10. **Chairperson procedure:** An un-minuted meeting was arranged for **Thursday 28th July at MK's house at 7.30 p.m.** to discuss the proposals that have previously been circulated by email. **ACTION ANY/ALL**
11. **RSS proposal:** Robin Hull had offered to set up a sub-committee, mostly of non-trustees, to explore fund-raising possibilities for the proposed bird-hide. With the proviso that Trustees would have control, this was agreed. PJ will write to RH expressing the views of the Trustees. **ACTION PJ.**
12. **Car Park:** PJ reported that P and K countryside Trust had awarded a grant of £7,500 and proposed initial work. Discussion on action to be taken was deferred. PJ will mark out the area and bring drawings to the next meeting. **ACTION PJ.**
13. **Publicity:** IS and JG had written an article published in Comment in June. It was agreed that the result of the KBH ballot should be announced in the next issue of Comment and that there should be some accompanying explanation of the KBH-Scheme. PJ will contact Jimmy Stewart of KBH Ltd about a combined piece and will check it with AP. **ACTION PJ AND AP.**
The next newsletter is due but discussion was deferred since JG was not present. Ideas and photos should be brought to the next meeting. PJ will contact JG and ask if she is willing to organise it. **ACTION PJ and ALL.**
14. **Subscription reminder:** GE reported that there were 93 paid-up members on 13th July, 21 of which were new since last year. Seventeen of last year's members had yet to renew: they will be sent a reminder. **ACTION GE.**
15. **Archaeology Final Report:** This had been received and payment made. CT had emphasised that the sheilings should be avoided in implementing the KBH-scheme.
16. **AOB**
 - Colin Liddell had resolved uncertainty about the southern boundary of the property; this had arisen because AP had used the SEERAD map, which apparently was incorrect by about 200 metres.
 - LB has invited HPCLT representatives to the Schiehallion Group field meeting on 12th September.
 - PJ tabled a booklet about the National Forest Land Scheme, which refers to affordable housing.
 - BH said that John Fry had put aside two 19-foot-long straight steel girders, after building a new bridge. He sought approval to ask for them to use to re-build the DC footbridge. Approved.**ACTION BH.**

Note special meeting on Chairperson procedure – Item 10 above

Next Trustees' Meeting: Tuesday 23rd August, at Duireaskin, Aberfeldy at 7.15 p.m.