

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Scottish Charity Number: SC032801

Minutes of Trustees' Meeting on Tuesday 21st August 2013 at Dun Coilich at 7.15 pm.

Present: Bill Hoare (chairman), Margaret Jarvis (minutes), Richard Paul, Jim Low, Andy Pointer, Innes Smith, Trish Waite, Ian Wilkinson, Sandra Winter.
Tim Fison, Julie Gardiner

Apologies: Richard Legate, Harry Ross

Minutes of previous meeting on 25th June, 2013 : Approved (prop SW, sec TW)

Matters arising

BH had received no information on deer culling.

Treasurer's report IW tabled a report accurate to date

There are now 40 paid-up members; 4 honorary members, 47 members who have not yet paid and 17 who have paid too much this year. Excess payments and donations total £270.

Trees, WGS, nursery, FC visit SW had enquired about the tree planting but had not yet received the completed map she had asked for. She spoke to Shane, who had actually done the planting; he said he had 'used all the unplanted space'. The feeling of the meeting was that this was unprofessional: the contract had been awarded to the Shorthouses and they should have been required to provide a written report before being paid. IW will ensure that this is the procedure in future **ACTION IW**. BH will speak to them and ask for a report. **ACTION BH**
TW had noted that the newly planted trees seen from the mapped routes seemed to be doing well.
JG advised that future planting and beating -up should be located on the Schiehallion side of the hill.

A follow-up visit by the Forestry Commission had been due in July but did not take place .BH will contact Matt Young when we have the written report and have looked at the trees planted and assessed survival **ACTION BH**

TW reported that the nursery area is tightly packed. Except for the Scots pine, the trees there look good.

Many of the tree tubes need attention; they were not firmly enough staked by the younger planters. Some have the stakes inside them; these require new ties. A work party is need to correct this and to weed inside the tubes where needed. IS offered to organise .The SWT ranger at Loch of the Lowes, Emma O'Shea, who asked for volunteer work, will be informed, as will new members. **ACTION IS**

JG advised that Ben Henderson's willows, that he intended to be a deer diversion on the wet ground near the Schiehallion march, would be best planted in the spring. IW will care for them until then **ACTION IW**

BH had had an email from Russ Jobson, Woodland Trust, offering continued support.

Fences Bill had no reports of any fence problems. TF and RP have put in a new watergate by the limekiln. The Watergates all need continuous checking: the possible use of blue alkathene hanging tubing was discussed. This would float up in a flood and not break. It will be considered if the current structures fail.

BH will investigate getting spring closures for the kissing gates which are currently tied with cord.

ACTION BH

Deer. There is now a new deer fence in place across the road to the east, back from the edge of the road. If deer behind the fence are culled the deer pressure at the DC boundaries might decrease.
Since there is no evidence that deer could jump the cattle grid at the entrance to the car park, no action will be taken until shown to be necessary.

Whitebridge area (car park, pylons, future) Reinstatement of the ground, and removal of the old pylons, is scheduled for November/December. There is a photographic record of the original condition. There will be a meeting with SSE to mark out the car park area. The occupants of Whitebridge Cottage will be kept informed.

A planting plan needs to be submitted to PKC. The bellmouth and fencing nearby need clarification from PKC. **ACTION JL**. RP suggested that chicken wire be put on the fences, as had been done elsewhere to stop roe deer entry. The least fertile soil should be sown with a suitable wildflower seed mix. Wet areas might be augmented by impeding drainage around the two burns. Most of this must await demolition and reinstatement in the Whitebridge area.

Footbridge The route including the stepping stones is part of the published 'core paths network'. However, since the stepping stones are not safe to use in flood conditions it would be desirable to have a footbridge (an idea previously discussed but not implemented). RP explained that expertise is available: Tim Winter and John Taylor are engineers; RP and TF can do the construction. The poles we have will need to be put in place; Sandy McAdam may be able to help with this. SW emphasised that the cost will be minimal and IW pointed out that money in the reserve account could be used. IS and MJ proposed that the bridge should be built and the meeting agreed to go ahead **ACTION!**

Grant applications BH had contacted Willy McGhee. The HLF wants more 'engagement of people'. WMGh had modified the application to address this but we have no copy as yet. The **Gannochy Trust Fund offer of a grant is valid until March 2014**. The Griffin fund wants more information. BH will contact WMGh on his return to this country. **ACTION BH**
RP suggest re-applying for a Bank of Scotland grant.

Community visits Along with JMT, BH had rejected a short notice offer by SNH to provide a task force of up to 60 "volunteers" for a day.

RP confirmed that Pitlochry HS definitely wanted to come again but had no date yet.

AP said that Breadalbane would like an Environmental Studies visit, led by Dr Armstrong (Head of Chemistry).

JMT liaison, Living landscapes, Maps. Liz Auty (JMT Biodiversity Officer) has 'GPSed' TF's marked routes except for the Allt Mor path. She expects to be here again on 27th August .

Regrouping, division of responsibilities The tree group was reinstated (SW, TF, MJ and JG). Further discussion deferred.

Glengoulandie Chalets. Planning approval is conditional on tree planting along the boundary being done. There was discussion about the water supply for the extra buildings. BH will find out about this **ACTION BH**

Membership: It was agreed that more publicity was needed. A suggestion that new members should receive a 'Welcome pack' was approved. BH and IW will take forward. **ACTION BH, IW**

SW will take leaflets to JMT premises in Pitlochry and to Blair Atholl Primary School **ACTION SW**

AP thought we needed events on DC to appeal more to non-conservationists, such as a Beltane festival.

RP envisaged the possibility of a red kite feeding station, maybe in partnership with Highland Safaris.

Life membership: Robin Hull and IW had met to consider RH's idea of life membership. There are already three honorary life members (Tim Ambrose, who examines the annual accounts; JK Rowling and Malcolm Appleby, who have been major donors.) RH's proposal for elected life members was rejected as too complex and probably not acceptable by OSCR..BH will revise the tabled document **ACTION BH**

AP suggested Ron Greer as a life member. He was asked to put this idea in writing. **ACTION AP**

AOB OSCR had accepted the annual report and given an invitation to an interactive event. (BH) to discuss Charity and Trustees Codes of Conduct – declined.

The webmaster, who lives in Namibia, had enjoyed a visit to DC, including the summit, in July. (MJ)

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Date of next meeting

Monday 21st October at 7.15 pm at Cluain, Tomnacroich, Nr Fortingall