

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Minutes of Trustees Meeting held on Monday, 23rd February 2004, at
Duireaskin, Aberfeldy at 7.15 p.m.

Present: Paul Jarvis (chairman), Ruth Atkinson, Beryl Coope, Julie Gardiner, Robin Hull, Andrew Pointer, Innes Smith, Margaret Jarvis (minutes secretary).

1. Apologies: Marjory Finlayson, Bill Hoare, Hamish Nicholson, Ian Riddell.

2. Minutes of previous Trustees meeting of 24th January 2004: approved and signed

3. Matters arising: Sandy McAdam is still trying to round up the 10 goats that have been seen on Dun Coillich. Wendy Mattingley reported seeing 9 goats including the silver billy; the stalkers have recently shot 10 deer. IS asked for any sightings of deer to be reported to him. **ACTION ALL.** He is keeping a record of the number culled. This information will be required by the FC after implementation of the WGS.

AP had photocopied copies of the maps of proposed footpaths and these were circulated.

The forms with up-to-date addresses of Trustees had been returned to W & H Mitchell.

PJ is working on a new application to 'Transforming your Space' for funding for the car park. **ACTION PJ.**

RH asked who had seen the Bird Report and pointed out the need to discuss the recommendations made in it. PJ replied that of the two copies RH had given him previously, one was circulating amongst the Trustees but he had no idea who has it at present; the other is in his files as a reference copy.

4. Arrangements for AGM:

Agenda: PJ circulated a draft Notice of Meeting, incorporating a formal agenda as approved by Colin Liddell last year, and covering the programme for the afternoon.

Trustee retireals: BC wishes to retire and will not stand again but is willing to continue as Treasurer if required. IS and RA will retire and will stand for re-election. Nomination forms were circulated and completed for IS and RA. Completed forms have already been received for Gordon Evans, Marjory Keddie and Lynette Borradaile. These should be sent on to Colin Liddell a.s.p..

Draft Minutes of last year's AGM: These were circulated for comment.

Independent Financial Review: Tim Ambrose's (auditor) report had been emailed to PJ by BC. Information about the Trustees who are retiring will now be added. PJ circulated a report on Trustees' activities for comment and amendment. BC had a Treasurer's report to be added to this.

The membership: GE has passed up-to-date membership details to BC who will check the numbers. GE has produced labels for mailing all members and is sending them to BC or PJ. **ACTION GE.**

Mailing: PJ said that he intended to mail the information pack to Members on Tuesday 2nd March

Exhibitions: JG suggested an exhibition on the Rural Stewardship Scheme. AP asked for updates for the website. IS will prepare a report on deer on the property. **ACTION IS.** RH repeated his previous suggestion that maps of the proposed planting areas should be circulated to Trustees and exhibited at the AGM. PJ said that this map, which is A4, is now at the FC but should be available before the AGM. He will ask for a larger copy, A3. **ACTION PJ.**

RH will provide a brief exhibit on birds and on the history. He will send a copy of the Bird Report to AP. **ACTION RH.** There will also be some material from Keltneyburn Hydro and from Forest Enterprise.

AP will bring some pines in pots.

Refreshments will be available.

5. ESA: RH had attended the public meeting about the location of the electricity pylons for the proposed new high voltage line coming through from the north. There is a possibility that one pole will be sited on the Dun Coillich ESA. RH had lodged an objection to this and asked for a dog-leg route around the ESA. He was thanked for this initiative.

IS had obtained an extension of one month for submission of conversion to the rural Stewardship Scheme (RSS) in order to get professional advice. This being so, Richard Lockett of FWAG is now willing to do the paperwork for *ca* £300. We would get an automatic transfer to the RSS if we do not change any of the conditions, or the area involved. RL is an expert on the schemes and could explain all the intricacies.

RH had examined the document on RSS and circulated a report. He believes that joining the RSS would be of benefit to HPCLT.

JG and IS agreed that RSS and WGS cannot apply to the same area of land. JG pointed out that the original ESA cannot be transferred to RSS and then the area involved be increased. She did not know the likelihood of getting RSS grant for open areas. This would depend on the BAP (Biological Action Plan) species present. She offered to make an estimate of these. **ACTION JG.** IS thought that the area is not diverse enough to qualify but RH added that the potential for additional BAP species is also important. JG emphasised that more information is needed before deciding whether it would be beneficial to attempt to extend the area. We need to know about any conflict with the WGS; the basis for any points system, etc.

IS strongly recommended that we contact RL, who would be available to assist us at the end of March - our extension is until the end of April. IS will ask RL immediately whether it would be worth trying for a larger area to be included in RSS. **ACTION IS**

The current ESA agreement is on file. IS will apply for the outstanding payments for the past two years, We should be entitled to £1600 for 10.5 hectares, possibly for both years. **ACTION IS**

6. Any other business: JG suggested announcing a summer event at the AGM. such as a bonfire and picnic? PJ thought this could be combined with a work party, possible clearing up the sheep fank. AP proposed a Sunday afternoon in May, pre-midges. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

7. Date of next meeting (March 22nd, 2004)