

Minutes of Trustees Meeting held at Duireaskin, Aberfeldy, Tuesday April 23rd, 2002, at 7.30 pm

Present: Paul Jarvis (chairman), Ruth Atkinson, Beryl Coope, Marjorie Finlayson, Julie Gardiner, Bill Hoare, Robin Hull, Hamish Nicholson, Andrew Pointer, Ian Riddell, Innes Smith, Margaret Jarvis (minutes secretary).

1. *Apologies:* None

2. *Minutes of Trustees meeting of 2nd April:* Accepted

3. *Matters arising:* (5) IR had thanked Alec Cruikshank publicly at a meeting of HPCP. MJ will send a letter of thanks. **Action MJ**

(8) A new member of the Trust had intimated that he had not received an acknowledgement. It was agreed that acknowledgement and thanks are desirable. BH suggested that a membership card could be sent as a receipt. Decision about this was deferred. MJ will draft a welcome letter to be sent to members after 10th May. AP will complete the membership list by then. Subscriptions now totalled £993: £833 received by CL plus £160 banked by BC. **Action AP, MJ**

(9) PJ had approached Gordon Evans who is a retired banker and is willing to do anything to help. This was welcomed. We also now need to look out for someone with appropriate accounting skills to prepare accounts in accordance with SORP. This person would complete a finance committee of three. **Action all**

(10) BC had contacted Sandy Mackenzie at the Royal Bank. A new mandate for the Trust is necessary and SM needs sight of the original of the Certificate of Incorporation. **Action BC**. The bank charges on the Steering Group account will be refunded as they were imposed in error. Loans made to the Steering Group account now need to be transmuted to gifts, in a signed and dated letter to CL. **Action PJ and BC**. Any two of the original four signatories will sign cheques. BC will ask whether a Treasurer's Account is available. **Action BC**

(18): JG circulated samples of a letterhead in various fonts, with the official information at the foot of the page drafted by CL. Two possible fonts were selected by the Trustees. A final decision is still to be made.

(19) RH reported that some newspapers had printed some or all of his press release (PA and Courier but not *Comment*). The Scots Magazine had accepted a long article for its August issue, which comes out in July. RH will find out what types of photographs are required by the editor. AP pointed out that photos are available on the HPCLT web site. **Action RH**

(20) Donations to date (22nd April) totalled £205,600.

(20c) IR now has all the information about possible grant-giving Trusts. He emphasised the need to be clear about exactly what we are raising funds for. PJ replied that funds would be for HPCLT, to which the cheques would be made out, 'for use on Dùn Coillich'. JG pointed out the importance of 'ring-fencing'. Other points made were that Shell Better Britain gives grants up to £2000; the Landfill Trust has three grades of funding: a and b are local; c applies anywhere if there is educational input. Another charity deals with disabled access. BC to find out. **Action BC**. IR and PJ will get together to initiate applications **Action IR and PJ**

(21) IS had asked the Royal Bank about insurance: Public Liability cover plus Employer's Liability, recommended, would cost about £600 per annum for £2 to 3 million. PJ had contacted AON, who are the John Muir Trust's insurers. Cover, provided by Norwich Union, would cost £250 for cover of £6 million. AP said that initial quotes are often low and that costs for subsequent years should be checked. JG warned that manual work must be included. Written quotes would be obtained before the next meeting. BH suggested that a final decision be taken by PJ and IS and this was agreed. **Action PJ and IS**

(28) RH and IS had attended the Kindrogan meeting but had not discussed car parks.

4. Minutes of the meeting held at West Carnliath on Monday 8th April.

Noted

5. Matters arising

BC had contacted Bruce MacNaughton of the Roads Department in Perth, There would be no problem about our using the current tractor access. We would need planning permission for car parks. He would be happy to make a site visit. The feeling of the meeting was that safe off-road parking was a first priority. HN, BC and RH will meet with B McN and take his advice, bearing costs in mind. It was thought that two or three loads of gravel might make the middle gate practicable. **Action HN, BC, RH.**

A meeting to discuss the WGS options had been arranged by JG for Thursday 25th April at 2.30 p.m. at the Forestry Commission office in Perth. A list of questions to be considered was drawn up to be e-mailed to the FC tomorrow so that they had time to consider their answers.

How flexible re initial 5-year period? PJ pointed out that the NTS scheme on Ben Lawers is over 15 years.

How flexible about omitting the planting of some of the blocks? JG emphasised that once we have agreed a scheme we would have to stick with it. AP suggested keeping suitable open areas for sledge runs. PJ thought the normal planting density is too high, especially for Scots pine (2500 per hectare) and that we might get agreement to use a lower density of, say, 1500. We may need to agree a new scheme quickly as a different and financially less attractive scheme may be coming in, in which payments will be made for work actually done and not on an area basis. IS thought the financial aspect was not critical to us. AP wondered if the area could be divided into sections planted at different times.

Will we get the Farm Woodland Premium scheme (£2400 per annum)?

Can the current WGS be extended? For how long? (refer to the Ben Lawers situation)

How flexible in terms of reducing the planted area? In species composition? In the stocking rate?

Do we need a new Environmental Impact Assessment if we change the scheme? What are the implications of the new scheme? Can we divide the area and have different schemes for different parts?

To summarise, the consensus was that we wanted to plant about 50% of the area over about 10 years at a lower stocking rate than normal. JG, RA and IS would go to Perth, possibly also PJ. **Action JG, R, IS, PJ.**

Agriculture: IS said that the IACS (Integrate and Control System) forms need to be in by May

ESA scheme: PJ and IS had looked at these, worth £1800 per year. They had operated for 6 years out of the total of 10 and were not too restrictive. Grazing from Sept to Oct would be required for 3 years. It was agreed to continue with this scheme.

Organic status. IS reported that there was no point in applying for this as there is currently no mechanism for registering trees. PJ was against an organic scheme in any case as chemical control of bracken might be needed.

Surveys. The suggestions about surveys were noted. AP had produced a draft map, laminated. This needed Crown permission to distribute, at a cost of £47.50 plus VAT per office of the organisation.

This covered any number of copies up to A4 size (possibly A3). We would need 1:10,000 maps for any survey. Decision to go ahead was made. **Action AP**

AP also had a spread sheet template for recording results of surveys. RH said that the surveys now needed to be organised and publicised. RH and AP will finalise this. **Action RH and AP**. The purchase of a GPS was authorised (ca £125). **Action AP**

Website. It was suggested that the names of Trustees should be published on the website. **Action AP**

Newsletter. JG offered to take the lead on this and bring proposals to the next meeting. Sponsorship might be possible for this. **Action JG**

6. Stationery. JG will circulate examples of different formats on the basis of our choice of fonts. **Action JG**

7. Financing the Purchase. Undertakings held by Colin Liddell were now sufficient to finance the purchase.

8. Education. IS emphasised that it is not advisable to go directly into schools; we should work from the top down. Thus he had spoken to the Director of Education in Perth and the Co-ordinator of Outdoor and Environmental Education in Perthshire. RA pointed out that schools are already involved with Community Woodlands. PJ will write to the Director. **Action PJ**

9. Publicity. IS had noticed that reports from Community Councils in Newsround North made no mention of Dùn Coillich. He suggested that CCs should be sent Minutes of Trustees meetings and will e-mail addresses to MJ. **Action IS**.

PJ asked what had happened to the questionnaires filled in by some members. These are being co-ordinated by AP.

10. Any other business.

A group from the JMT AGM on Saturday had met about 15 medical students from Edinburgh University on Dùn Coillich (deterred from ascending Schiehallion by low cloud). They had been very interested in the community purchase and expressed willingness to join in future work parties.

There were still many sheep and goats on the area and at least two red deer. These will be removed by the owner before May 10th.

PJ reported that contracts had not yet been exchanged. He had pressed the lawyers for a detailed map, particularly of the southern corner.

PJ said that Andrew Campbell (JMT Land and Property Manager) had offered to take out the derelict metal fence between the wall and the deer fence. The offer was accepted provided that the work would be done after May 10th.

The Royal Scottish Forestry Society was visiting Schiehallion on 12th June and might also visit Dùn Coillich. This was welcomed in principle and in practice. PJ will phone Jeannie Finlayson, who is the local secretary and welcomes anyone interested to join in the visit. **Action PJ**.

It was emphasised that a priority for the next meeting is to establish a Dùn Coillich Management Group and define its relationship to the Trustees. IS will prepare a paper on this. **Action IS**

11. Date of next meeting Monday 6th May, Duireaskin 7.15 p.m. (note change of time).