

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Minutes of Meeting of Trustees held on Tuesday, 23rd August 2005, at Duireaskin, Aberfeldy, at 7.15 p.m.

Present:, Lynnette Borradaile, Philip Campbell, Tim Fison, Julie Gardiner, Bill Hoare, Paul Jarvis (Chairman), Hamish Nicholson, Andrew Pointer, Margaret Jarvis (Minutes Secretary).

1. **Apologies:** Gordon Evans, Marjorie Keddie, Innes Smith, Clare Thomas.

2. **Minutes of previous meeting on 19th July 2005** : approved and signed.

3. **Matters arising:** KBH: all voting members have been informed of the result. There is also a notice in the August issue of 'Comment', written by Jimmy Stewart and Paul Jarvis. PC congratulated all those responsible for such a successful outcome.

BH reported that the electric fence is in place to protect the sown crop from cattle. IS and BH met Alec Murray's stockman on 1st August and BH spoke to AM on 22nd. In-calf heifers, about 20, will be put on the Glengoulandie area on 27th August for as long as we want. However, AM thinks this is too late in the season; IS also thought that RSS conditions should be modified so that grazing can begin before 31st July. Another management possibility is to cut and remove the cut vegetation in order to reduce the fertility and encourage wild flowers.

BH met Garry Knox (Wayleave Officer of the Electricity Board) on site on 15th August. Notes of this meeting were tabled. (BH will email copies to all. **ACTION BH**). This is an important issue and further discussion was deferred until the next meeting. BH pointed out that we would need advice from Colin Liddell on whether all members would need to be consulted about a wayleave. AP will produce maps on which the RSS areas are marked. **ACTION AP**. All were asked to look out for the Environmental Impact Assessment, in Aberfeldy library and at Tummel Bridge. **ACTION ALL**. PJ thanked BH for obtaining this information in writing.

Regarding bracken control, PJ had not been able to contact Hamish Murray. LB has a copy of SNH guidance on bracken control and will e-mail it around. **ACTION LB**. AM sprayed 60 hectares this year and offered, as a donation, to spray a trial hectare for us next year. It was reported that the areas strimmed had so far only a few new bracken fronds visible. PJ pointed out that our strategy for bracken control must be decided during the winter: we have a commitment to control in the RSS areas and a need to control in the areas where natural regeneration of trees is to take place.

PJ noted that the kissing gate between DC and the FC plantations has already been modified by HM so that roe deer cannot get under the gate. BH noted that improvement to the latch is still needed. BH reported that the other kissing gate, the one under the power line, has also been put in by the FC, and does have an effective latch.

It was decided to remove completely the stile in the fence onto Schiehallion and to have new gates where there is an original gate further to the north. A gate together with a kissing gate were thought to be the best option. PJ to discuss with Andrew Campbell. **ACTION PJ**

There has been no further progress on the steel girders for the bridge. **ACTION BH**

4. **Organisation and Chairperson procedure:** Next meeting 29th August at 7.30 p.m. at BH's.

5. **Approaches to schools:** TF had met on DC with Elliott Thom of Activekids. He had shown interest and had put TF in touch with Jeannie Skoyles of P & K Ranger Service who has also now made a site visit with TF. The problem of transport had been mentioned. TF had also written to the five primary schools in Highland Perthshire. Glen Lyon school had replied immediately expressing interest.

BH had contacted Alec Towns who was keen to establish a dialogue. PJ suggested Sandy Thomson as another possible contact.

LB emphasised that young volunteers should be introduced to general principles of ecology – not just tree-planting alone.

There was some discussion about setting aside a definite area for each school .It was emphasised that access would need to be easy. LB offered to take this forward in relation to the school curriculum. **ACTION LB**

6. **Publicity:** PJ & MJ offered to write something about the plants on the limestone areas to be published in the next *Comment*. **ACTION PJ, MJ**

7. **Newsletter\:** A Newsletter is now overdue: JG will put one together; material should be sent to her **BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1ST DEADLINE.**
 The following contributions were agreed:
 BH: RSS (JG to send him a list of the constituents of the sown crop) **ACTION JG.**
 CT: archaeology. LB will ask her. **ACTION LB.**
 PJ: AGM report, including Trustees' names and brief résumé of interests. **ACTION PJ.**
 Plants: JG (information on limestone plants from PJ). **ACTION JG.**
 Volunteering: a brief note. **ACTION ? please confirm.**
 Hydroscheme: PJ will contact Jimmy Stewart **ACTION PJ.**

8. **Car Park:** A map was tabled by PJ; he proposed putting a 130 m stock fence along a marked line. This would enable progress on the roadside wall to be made. He had obtained one estimate of ca. £700 plus VAT. (A previous estimate from Willy Grieve had been £1400). It was decided to go ahead with the fence. PJ will get at least one more estimate, possibly from Willy Shorthouse, and will peg out the line of the fence. **ACTION PJ.**
 JG thought we should consider what else we could do with the rest of the grant from P and K Countryside Trust. It is a priority to get parked cars off the road. The cattle grid in the entrance was suggested. JG also emphasised the need to decide the position of gates in the fence. All will check the pegged fence line and gate positioning, when the fence line has been marked out.

9. **Rejoining and subscription:** PJ will ask GE about this. **ACTION PJ.**

10. **Fence repair and maintenance:** BH reported that Sandy Mc Adam had done a good job on the fence repairs. BH had walked the fence line along the Schiehallion and Forestry Commission boundaries on 22nd August. The fences are in good condition except for a gap underneath the Schiehallion fence and a 4 to 5 m length which is too low as a result of build-up of silt. This needs a higher wire – a job for more than one person -. There is no evidence of deer incursion. PC, LB, and PJ offered to help with this. BH will suggest dates. **ACTION BH, PC, LB, PJ.**

11. **Deer control:** BH had seen one red deer hind on 22nd; HN one roe deer previously.

 BH had a constructive meeting with Ian Wotherspoon of Glenlyon Estate. He recognises that driving out deer is not practicable and that deer are not acceptable in areas of young trees. His keeper will look out for deer incursions onto DC. BH will also discuss the proposed power lines with him.

12. **RSS:** BH expressed concern that the upstream scrapes are not deep enough. JG pointed out that they do not need to have permanent water to fulfil the RSS requirements and that it is not possible to dig deeper because of the soil conditions. LB added that this is an exceptionally dry year and that judgement should therefore be deferred until next summer.

13. **WGS:** A draft tender document had been obtained by PJ from HM and modified. JG said that tenders for planting were about to be sent out; planting might begin in October. Flagged areas would not be planted and some tree seedlings would be held back from the contactors for planting

by volunteers. Approximately five hectares close by the gate onto the area would be set aside for planting by volunteers.

14. Vegetation surveys: PJ & MJ have looked at the plants on the limestone areas.

Ron Youngman has a species list for the whole of DC. JG will give LB locations for detailed vegetation surveys. **ACTION JG.**

The Electricity Board will have surveyed the pylon route and we should ask for their data. JG has monitored the RSS areas.

15. Any other business:

LB reminded Trustees of the on-site meeting with the Schiehallion Core Group on Monday 12th September, meeting at 6 p.m. at Braes of Foss car park. The main issues would be the FC car park and possible gates. She asked for approx. three representatives to participate. **ACTION PJ, AP, WM, PC please confirm.**

A member had suggested to BH that there should be a 'Dun Coillich' notice on the property, so that members and the public would be aware of the location. This was agreed; PC offered to research a suitable format. **ACTION PC.**

BH enquired what we should do with the wood from the former sheep fank. One possibility suggested would be to construct artificial otter holts further up the burn. (Otters have been seen in the caravan site). HN will ask Russell Coope for advice. **ACTION HN.**

PJ suggested that HPCLT should join the Community Woodland Association, at a cost of £30 per year for full membership. This was agreed. **ACTION PJ.**

Information about this will be included in the Newsletter, at BH's suggestion. **ACTION JG.**

16. Next Trustees' Meeting: Monday 3rd October, at Duireaskin, Aberfeldy at 7.15 p.m.