

**Minutes of Meeting of Trustees held on Monday, 24th February 2003, at Duireaskin, Aberfeldy at 7.15 p.m.**

Present: Paul Jarvis (chairman), Ruth Atkinson, Beryl Coope, Julie Gardiner, Bill Hoare, Hamish Nicholson, Ian Riddell, Margaret Jarvis (minutes secretary), Tim Fison (from 8.30 p.m.).

**1. Apologies.** Robin Hull, Marjorie Finlayson, Andrew Pointer, Innes Smith.

**2. Minutes of Trustees meeting of 7<sup>th</sup> January 2003:** Accepted and signed

**3. Matters arising.** All are included in the agenda

**4. Car park.** The drawings and planning application have been submitted and a decision is expected by 20<sup>th</sup> March. Gordon Lindsay, a member of 'Access Group' (a pressure group within Perth and Kinross Council, including a council planner) had asked if we had given due consideration to access for all. It had been explained to his satisfaction that wheel-chair access was not appropriate since the car park was intended to give access to hill walkers. [Note: planning consent was received on the 27<sup>th</sup> February].

BH mentioned that IS had received a suggestion for an alternative car parking area from Sandy McAdam, who had offered a hardstand within the caravan site with access from the site. This is a good walk in but was not considered very practical by those who knew it. There is also a conservation argument against using the southern route as the main access. PJ will reply to SMcA thanking him for the suggestion. **Action PJ**

**5. Allt Mor Hydro Scheme.** PJ had e-mailed a report of the meeting that he, BH and AP had with the developers and Dr Tom Shaw of Shawater Ltd. on 11<sup>th</sup> February. They were asking HPCLT to give support in principle as 7 out of the 8 landowners involved have already done so. Their next step is to commission an Environmental Statement and to get SEPA approval but they do not wish to go forward without HPCLT agreement. A discussion of the merits and risks of the scheme followed. PJ mentioned that we might benefit financially but this must not over-ride environmental considerations. RA pointed out that any income would be important in meeting our obligation to the land. BC pointed out that we could have an input on minimising any consequential damage if we were part of the scheme from the beginning. BH emphasised the need for reinstatement of the ground around and over the trench for the pipe, because the scar would be very visible. HN emphasised the need to avoid disturbance of breeding birds. There was unanimous agreement among those present (plus AP and IS, who were not present but had previously expressed their agreement) that we should agree to the scheme *in principle*, subject to adequate environmental safeguards. The point was also made that we would need independent financial advice about potential income and legal advice about any partnership or other arrangement. PJ was to convey this decision to the developers after the meeting and would subsequently write to them **Action PJ**. [Note: a copy of the letter written to the Keltneyburn Hydro Ltd. Is appended to these Minutes.]

**6. Arrangements for the A.G.M.** MJ has booked Aberfeldy Town Hall for Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March from 1.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. at a cost of £77.50. A small group, RA, BC and RH, have circulated proposed arrangements by email. They proposed an exhibition from 2 p.m. onwards. Other timings were discussed and the following agreed: Exhibition: 2 p.m.; AGM and Raffle: 3.30 p.m.; Tea: 4.30 to 5 p.m.; Talk 5 to 6 p.m. The raffle will be drawn by Malcolm Appleby and will be open to all paid-up members. BC was arranging for a speaker from Eigg to talk about the community purchase of the island, and this requires confirmation. **Action BC**. Expenses would be paid. BH made the point that we wouldn't want to shift the focus too much off Dùn Coilich.

There followed a general discussion about the Exhibition. **RH** was elected as coordinator (in his absence). **Action RH**. BH said that plenty of tables are available. **MJ** will contact Bob Fryer (Strathearn SWT) about using SWT vertical display stands. **Action MJ**.

**BC** will mount an exhibit on the car park; **HN** has photos of damage to pine trees, will help Russell Coope with a geological map and will contact AP about digital availability of geological

maps. **RA** and **JG** will prepare an exhibit on plants, possibly showing options for different areas and amounts of tree planting; and **BH** (who will be absent) will prepare an exhibit on fungi. **RC** and **AP** will exhibit some results of the beetle survey. **IR** will be there after 4 p.m. and offered to assist RH. **PJ** will contact MF about a possible exhibit on her return. **Action RH, MJ, BC, HN, RA, JG, BH, AP, IR, PJ.**

**IS** may be able to show a 10 minute video. **AP** may be able to set up a digital slide show of wildlife and landscapes, possibly with a beamer borrowed from the Aberfeldy Learning Centre. **Action IS, AP.**

RH, with the publicity subgroup, would print and distribute black and white posters advertising the event. **Action RH, RA, IS. BC.**

**7. Policy and Management.** PJ had drafted a paper on moving forward. He has not yet emailed this around for consideration because he wanted to discuss it first with IS, who has not been available. Printed copies were tabled (and will be mailed to those not present, **Action PJ**) and discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

**8. Publicity: walks and talks.** BH had had one recce walk plus one walk on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> and one on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>. Three different routes had been followed. Several new members, and much interest, had resulted. Two more walks are planned for next weekend and BH is willing to lead more as needed, to be publicised in local newspapers. An eagle and a flock of snow buntings had been sighted.

RH had printed a copy of a report of the discussions following the various talks held throughout the winter months for each Trustee and these were tabled. Discussions had been lively; two new members had joined at the meetings.

**9. Birdathon.** Tim Fison has offered to take over the organisation of the Birdathon from RH. TF was in attendance to present his ideas. The birdathon will tie in more closely with Dùn Coillich. All proceeds will go to HPCLT, possibly to a specific project. It is hoped to engage more young people by a direct approach to schools and families. The date is to be Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, from sunrise to 6 p.m., finishing with some kind of event at Dùn Coillich open to all, e.g., a sausage sizzle or BBQ, with a small charge to result in a profit. The object is to observe as many bird species as possible in Tayside. Unmistakable calls, and road kills, will be allowable. Various prizes will be offered. **Donations of prizes welcome! Action All.** HN suggested publicising the event in Tourist Offices to attract entrants from further afield. Heartland Radio might still help with publicity even though it would not be receiving a share of the proceeds as in previous years. TF received unanimous support for this enterprise from all present.

**10. Membership Secretary.** AP has set up a very practical data-base and now wishes to be replaced as the *de facto* Membership Secretary because of pressure of work. Everyone was asked to think of a possible replacement among the membership. **Action All.**

**11. History.** RH had tabled a brief report. He has written three chapters of ca 30,000 words. Since possible sponsors prefer to work with an organisation rather than an individual, he asked if the Trustees would agree to HPCLT seeking sponsorship. This was unanimously approved. It was decided not to spend £85 just now on the 'Sponsorship and Donations Yearbook'. It would quickly go out-of-date and comparable information is likely to be available from other sources such as the Internet or the Library. HN wondered if Colin Liddell might have a copy of the book.

**12. Any other business.**

JG was congratulated on producing such a good second newsletter. BC was pleased to say that £2671 had been received from the Inland Revenue from Gift Aid.

BC reported that HPCP had asked for a further subscription of £50. IR had been our contact person but had been unable to attend because of illness. MJ will send HPCLT minutes to HPCP. The general feeling was that we should be part of the organisation and maintain contact. **Action BC.**

BH had noted that the fence around Dùn Coilich is no longer intact, for example at the water gate. BH suggested organising a working party to effect repairs. He will plan this for mid-April, and will contact IS, who has the necessary expertise. Keith Miller (JMT) had found the gate between Dùn Coilich and Schiehallion left open, then lifted off and moved. Putting a chain and lock on the gate was discussed but no decision taken pending discussion with JMT. **Action PJ.** JG emphasised that the stile across the fence must be properly maintained or we could incur liability.

**13. Date of next meeting.** Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2003 at Duireaskin at 7.15 p.m.

The items for discussion will be restricted to the paper 'The Way Ahead' on policy and management and the final arrangements for the AGM.

The meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.