

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Minutes of Meeting of Trustees held on Monday 24 Nov 08 at 7:15 p.m. at Duireaskin.

Present: Paul Jarvis (chairman), Bill Hoare (Minutes sec.), Gordon Evans, Tim Fison, Margaret Jarvis, Richard Paul, Julie Gardiner

1. Apologies: Ann Partridge, Clare Thomas, Rob Coope, Robin Hull

2. Minutes of previous meeting of 29 Sep 08: Approved, after some small corrections.

3. Matters Arising.

The Planning application for chalets at Glengoulandie is still pending. BH will investigate possible book purchases with money donated from the Perth Walking Group **ACTION BH**

4. Reports from Groups:

a. Public Relations and Website:

MJ has submitted articles to Comment and Breadalbane Quair following HPCLT's success in the Big Tree Country "Wildlife in the Community" competition. For several years we have not had to pay for the HPCLT Website to be hosted; but hereafter, we must pay £100 pa. The recently produced membership list was considered very useful. HPCLT and Trustee's responsibilities in relation to this list and the Data Protection Act were summarised by BH.

b. Education Activities. A group from Kinloch Rannoch primary school recently had a successful visit. Some criticism of risk assessment (RA) procedures was made following this visit. **ACTION TF** to obtain more details. **ACTION JG** to produce a generic RA for HPCLT which can then be used to supplement RAs produced by the visiting school/group/etc. RP indicated that the Rural Studies group of pupils are ready to do dyking, tree planting, stiles, weeding, etc. Most of this activity is to await the spring. **ACTION RP with ALL.** There was some discussion about the pupils using mink so-called 'traps' to detect presence of mink, and other animals and birds, by recording footprints in a layer of clay. These might be floated on the ponds. **ACTION RP**

c. Keltneyburn Hydro Scheme: The developer has indicated to PJ that this scheme, although now approved, is currently held up awaiting final documents from SEPA and financial arrangements with the bank.

d. Natural and Cultural Heritage: In CT's absence, this item was left until the next meeting.

e. Maintenance, Fencing, RSS: Sandy McAdam's highland cattle have been grazing parts of the southern RSS since 9 Oct and will continue for some time yet. A fence strainer by the road north of Whitebridge has collapsed - this is not critical but **ACTION TF & RC.** Since the last meeting, 13 red deer have been shot - these count against the Garth quota. Some roe have also been shot but several remain. JG asked if there was a more efficient way of reducing deer pressure on Dun Coillich. After discussion, FC is to be approached for assistance, a specification for fencing to be drawn up, and additional quotes sought. **ACTION JG.** The creation of a deer-friendly one-way exit (or ha-ha) to be investigated following a suggestion at the latest DMG meeting. **Action BH.**

f. Visitor Access: RC has replaced the dilapidated wooden fence at the Braes of Foss end of the fence on the DC-Schiehallion march. Two stiles have been prefabricated by PJ to be installed along this same march. They are heavy and RC has offered to help move the materials to the site. RP and PJ will coordinate and organise help from the Rural Studies pupils. **ACTION RP, PJ, RC.**

g. Observation and Educational Facility (OEF): Golden Wedding Anniversary trees have been planted by RH and family at the northern end of the car-park field. The framed 'Winner'

Certificate and wooden sculpture awarded at the “Big Tree Country Awards 2008 - Wildlife in the Community” competition will be displayed in the OEF. **ACTION PJ.** To make the OEF more accessible, a list of key holders will be placed on the OEF door – **ACTION BH.** Approaches will be made to occupants of the Glengoulandie Cottages and to the Glengoulandie Country Park shop regarding possible regular opening/closing of the OEF. **ACTION BH.** The provision of an automatic door closer and the possibility of a numeric key pad/key store to be investigated. **ACTION BH.**

h. Woodlands and WGS: Mike Strachan has been replaced by Tim Barratt (TB) at the offices of the Forest Authority (FC), Perth, responsible for our WGS. He will visit Dun Coilich early in 2009 to see what we have achieved. One WGS payment applied for last July, for which TB is now responsible, is still awaited. **ACTION PJ.** Birch & Scots pine for the final phase of the WGS next spring, and for beating up, have been ordered. The WGS contract specifies Scots pine of Meggernie or Rannoch provenance but stock is not currently available. TB has approved the use of Abernethy provenance. Commitments for planting by screefing-in are being sought from Trustees and others, and the areas to be planted will be mapped. **ACTION JG.** Any archaeology will be flagged to protect it. **ACTION CT**

5. Treasurer’s Report: State of Accounts:

Reserve account	£62,897.47 (£397.02 interest received 30.09.08)
OEF account	£5395.39 (£31.06 interest received 30.09.08)
Current account	£842.80

Details of income and expenditure since the beginning of the financial year had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The five-year loan is due to be repaid late 2009.

PJ confirmed that the annual cost of our Public Liability Insurance cover has been £350 pa (plus tax) since 2003 and that Insurance of the OEF has added £100 pa (+ tax) to that - to be paid out of OEF funds. **ACTION MJ.** Some discussion on affordability and availability of fire insurance for the trees planted on DC followed.. An earlier quotation received in 2003 was for an addition of £551 pa, and action was deferred until the trees were planted. This will now be re-investigated. **ACTION PJ.**

6. Any Other Business:

6.1 AGM. Alan Stewart, Police Wildlife Crime Officer, has agreed to speak and the Molteno hall, Fortingall, has been booked for the afternoon of **Saturday 7th March 2008.** A Newsletter needs to be produced for circulation with the AGM papers -**ACTION ALL to submit material to JG.** Planning of the AGM to be coordinated – **ACTION TF, BH.**

6.2 SSE Pylon Line. Wayleaves etc being followed up. Some queries raised by Colin Liddell are still to be resolved **ACTION BH.**

6.3 National Parks. RP attended a recent National Parks Seminar which will be producing an action plan for the Perth & Kinross area. This is unlikely to affect HPCLT but the situation will be monitored. **ACTION RP**

6.4 HPCLT Trustees & Membership. HPCLT needs additional members and at the AGM, will need new Trustees. **ACTION ALL** to seek new blood. Caravans and Chalets at Glengoulandie to be specifically targeted. **ACTION BH.** Trustee nomination papers (blank) are to be put on the HPCLT website **ACTION MJ.**

7. The next meeting will be held on **Monday 2 February 2009** at the home of **BH at Cluain, Tomnacroich, nr Fortingall 7:15 p.m.**