

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust
Scottish Charity Number: SC032801

**Minutes of Trustees' Meeting held at Duireaskin, Aberfeldy
Thursday 24th November, 2016 at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Richard Paul (chairman), Margaret Jarvis (minutes), Tim Fison, Julie Gardiner, Bill Hoare, Willie McGhee, Andy Pointer, Gordon Stronach, Trish Waite, Andy Walker, Ian Wilkinson.

Apologies: Rob Coope, Heather Hamilton, Ann Macintosh, Richard Rees.

Minutes 19th Sept: approved

Matters arising: none

Duncan Menzies field: Sheila McBride, a resident of Burns Brae, adjoining the DMF, was invited to give the views of the residents. Their main concerns were continued access for dog walking, the possibility of access by machinery, from any direction; also the lack of light arising from the height of lime trees (shown on an 1850 map). The idea of a community orchard was popular.

BH had listed his thoughts, as follows, on next actions now that all legalities are completed.

- Establish small working party
 - Obtain detailed plan; mark out boundaries on the ground.
 - Determine owner of ground S of DMF and establish contact.
 - Put up notices re DMF history, HPCT ownership, plans, litter etc.
 - Determine how to affirm and exercise access rights to North and South.
 - Survey and record what is on and under DMF.
 - Liaise with PKC-Tree Officer re trees on DMF, and re Birks generally.
 - Liaise with Burns Brae Residents Assoc. and Move2improve.
 - Ensure that no changes needed to HPCLT Constitution.
 - Publicise new ownership; seek proposals for its utilisation/development.
 - Give DMF a better name.
 - Seek funding as required.
 - Establish a small management team.
- He suggested putting an article in the February issue of 'The Quair'

Other thoughts welcome. One or two volunteers to join BH on a working party would be welcomed.

Financial update by IW: copies of detailed up-to-date accounts were circulated by IW. The current account balance is £14,555; reserve account £2742. Recent expenses were £1579 for legal fees for the transfer of ownership of DMG. £500 from the Griffin fund went towards this. £6000 from capitalisation of wayleave is due.

The project account stands at £26,288.

IW proposed that the reserve and current accounts should be merged into one since there is no longer a financial advantage in maintaining the separation. This was approved by all, provided that Robin Hull is consulted.

Project officer's report: In her absence because of illness her written report was circulated.

The first training course is still going well. (A detailed timetable was included). It will finish on 1st Feb, with a graduation ceremony. HH will now begin recruiting for the next one.

Tuesday work parties have gone well, averaging 4 to 5 participants. Good progress on the fence has ensued. HH may now organise work parties at weekends, possibly on the last Saturday of each month.

Pitlochry pupils have planted trees and Rural Skills pupils from Breadalbane have visited.

Leaflets about HPCLT were circulated for comment. These were printed by Ron Dekker, Kinloch Rannoch

HH reported that the barbecue had gone well and been enjoyed by all. She suggested having another such event at Easter time.

She is planning a funding application to FC for a composting toilet as a permanent amenity that will require minimum maintenance, available as soon as possible.

Input from Trustees

WMcG:

Forestry Inspection: WMcG reported that this would take place on Nov 29th. There will be three people from FC and three or four from HPCLT. An inspection beginning from the forestry track will be encouraged. The well-grown pines in that area are infected, probably with red pine needle blight. RC will provide a report on the stalking effort in recent months. BH queried who had been involved. The possibility of employing Calum, the Kynachan stalker, was suggested. WMcG said there were only 4 or so roe deer on the area and a positive effect on the trees was visible.

Heart of Scotland Forestry Project This landscape scale project is led by JMT. Grants are available. The fund-raising group comprises Kate Barclay, JMT; WMcG, HPCLT; and Jenny White, Woodland Trust. This group will meet in Edinburgh on 8th December. £250,000 will be needed if the Project Officer and Training programme are to continue. The project will start small and then grow, with the objective to link up native woodland. The Kynachan estate has an important role in this.

BH wondered about including the strip of native tree-planting along the east side of the road alongside DC. AP thought that FC should replant with native trees along the roadside to the north of DC, where felling and replanting by FC will take place. However this would involve protection from deer by fences on both sides and so is unlikely.

AW: AW's idea of buying the area of forest north of DC and generating an income from timber sales, as had been done by the Birse Community Trust in Aberdeenshire, could not be implemented because the standing timber had already been sold.

AW had written an article for the Community Woodland Association's newsletter about HPCLT. This had been circulated to Trustees by email and had been welcomed by them and by CWA

TF: The proposal by Green Highland Renewables to relocate the intake on JMT land had been turned down by JMT. HPCLT would need a new lease with GHR. BH wanted a colleague to join him in consulting Colin Liddell about a lease. WMcG offered to do this. GHR are seeking a backer in relation to a pension fund **ACTION BH and WMcG**

JG: The AGM will be on 25th March at Ballinluig or Grandtully. She will ask Jon Hollingdale, CWA, to be the guest speaker. He has agreed in principle.

Volunteers to take over as Chairman after the AGM will be needed.

BH explained that four Trustees needed to retire at the AGM. Three are eligible for re-election: the fourth will be Jim Anderson who does not wish to seek re-election.

IW: IW will continue as treasurer for one more year only. He suggested that a new treasurer should work together with him during the next financial year, which begins next month. BH put forward the idea of paying an hourly rate to encourage a new treasurer.

AOB:

RP thanked TW for the new lean-to in the DC car park, which is housing tree tubes, vole guards etc. The cost was ca £200. Mitch Bain had provided very skilled help. GS had also assisted in the construction. HH had suggested a second lean-to on the side of the hut but BH and others thought this would encourage development of rot.

BH wished to minute the fact that we had discussed taking appropriate action to protect children and vulnerable adults from extremism and radicalisation.

BH offered to update the membership application form on the website to enable payment by BACS by including bank details and also a gift aid form. **ACTION BH**

TF suggested that Liz Auty referred to the previous 'heart wood' where relevant to the current project. He also suggested that the Deer Management Group, Chairman Victor Clements, should be kept informed about the project.

RP thanked TF for his continued steadfast and valuable support despite the increased distance he had to travel.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm with thanks to MJ for her hospitality

Date of next meeting:

Thursday 12th January 2017 at 7.30 pm at Gate Cottage, West Tempar, Kinloch Rannoch