

Minutes of Trustees Meeting held on Tuesday, 25th March 2003, at Duireaskin, Aberfeldy at 7.15 p.m.

Present: Paul Jarvis (chairman), Ruth Atkinson, Beryl Coope, Marjory Finlayson, Julie Gardiner, Robin Hull, Hamish Nicholson, Andrew Pointer, Margaret Jarvis (minutes secretary).

1. Apologies: Bill Hoare, Innes Smith.

2. Minutes of Trustees meeting of 24th February 2003: Accepted and signed

3. Matters arising:

Sandy McAdam had phoned PJ to say that he had previously proposed a different hydroscheme. He had been asked to send a letter about this and had now done so. RH asked that all trustees should have a copy of this letter and this was agreed. **Action PJ.**

Car Park: PJ had two copies of the design study completed by Gaia Architects. A sum of just under £30,000 had been budgeted by Willy Grieve. A further sum of £700 had been budgeted by Gaia for further work involved in seeking tenders etc. PJ is in the process of filling in an application form for a grant from 'Transforming your Space'. AP suggested that the Land Fund and the Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust might also be approached. RH commented that the estimate from WG seemed very high. However, PJ said that the actual cost could be lowered by making use of voluntary labour. It was agreed that we should have at least one more quote, preferably two.

PJ had been to Battleby to talk with Phillip Gaskell and Mike Shepherd of SNH. They were very interested in collaboration with HPCLT.

Two working parties had been organised by BH. The water gate had been repaired by replacing the broken cable; the broken gate had been made deer-proof; and the stile steps nailed back on.

4. Final arrangements for A.G.M

Posters advertising the AGM had already been put up throughout the district.

Trustees thought that the papers sent out to members by PJ were satisfactory. AP suggested that there should have been a reminder to take the papers to the meeting. PJ circulated copies of the documents that had been sent to Companies House. BC will thank Tim Ambrose for all the work he had done for HPCLT in this respect. Colin Liddell had pointed out one error: his firm, and not himself personally, is the Company Secretary.

RH emphasised that the business part of the AGM should be kept as short as possible. He feels that the main function of the AGM is to sound out opinion.

Setting up will be from 1.30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

BC will collect subscriptions at a table set up in the Town Hall.

RH has three exhibits already prepared; Tim Fison has one on the Birdathon; AP will have one on access and one on beetles; BC one on the car park; RA will have one on plants; IS will have a continuous tape; JG an exhibit on the options for woodland. She asked Trustees to read her paper on Woodland Options (tabled) and send comments on it to her as soon as possible. **Action all.**

RH suggested that all exhibitors should have a writing pad to record names, addresses and comments. PJ emphasised the need to recruit as many new members as possible. Membership Application forms were circulated to everyone to photocopy as they required (Strathtay Post Office was recommended for this). **Action all exhibitors**

Vertical display boards will be borrowed from SWT. MJ will collect these on Thursday and e mail Trustees to describe them. **Action MJ.**

The raffle would be open to both old and new members.

Refreshments would be organised by MJ and MF. **Action MJ and MF**

5. 'The Way Ahead'. The two -page document written by PJ was discussed. PJ felt that we now needed more focus; this might be provided by starting on the preparation of a management plan, working from the principles on which HPCLT is based. It is clear that there are differences of opinion both within the trustees and within the community. Do we agree with the framework of principles? What action do we take from now on? The crucial point is that we have responsibility to the members of HPCLT and to the land. BC emphasised that inclusiveness should be encouraged, non-members could become involved. PJ suggested setting up a small working group to start the process of producing a management plan and to discuss the issues and opinions that exist.

A general discussion about this followed:

RH and others thought that the approach is premature at the moment. First we need to be more visible, more people should experience the hill, and then, importantly, we will get more members. The car park is vital.

PJ pointed out that there are some policies we need to decide on. For example, walks and access through to Schiehallion. Where should stiles be placed? Should the existing stiles be replaced? He also thought that we could now produce an improved map of vegetation types. RA thought that all the information we now have should be collated. JG saw the need to put forward options to be rebuffed or accepted, for example joining a Woodland Grant Scheme. She pointed out that we forgo potential income if we do not accept a Woodland Grant Scheme. RH said that the general feeling at the public meetings had been in favour of minimum planting. AP asked if a WGS could apply to a part of the hill rather than the whole area and

was told that it can. He suggested that planting around the Forestry Commission plantation would soften the edges and discourage regeneration of exotic conifers.

In conclusion, AP suggested drawing up a document of tasks, independent of a management plan. This suggestion was accepted and it was agreed that everyone should email AP with suggestions of tasks and the envisaged timescale for them. **ACTION ALL.**

Any other decisions were deferred until after the AGM when more Trustees could take part.

AP has a well-qualified and experienced friend who had offered to walk the hill and assess the potential for natural regeneration with different degrees of grazing pressure. He recommended that this offer should be accepted.

6. Any Other Business:

Russell Coope had made contact with the Kent Wildlife Trust, who were looking for goats to browse unwanted encroaching trees. The goats, about 30, with their kids, were in Sandy McAdam's paddock at present. The Kent Wildlife Trust would arrange transport, at a cost of about £1500, and would give a donation of about £300 in return for the goats. This was unanimously approved with great enthusiasm and a vote of grateful thanks was given to Russell.. JMT will be asked to share the cost. **Action PJ**

Ann Partridge might be willing to be membership secretary. RH will ask her. **Action RH**

7. Date of next meeting: to be decided after AGM