

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Scottish Charity Number: SC032801

Minutes of Trustees' Meeting on Tuesday 25th June 2013 at Dun Coilich at 7.15 pm.

Present: Bill Hoare (chairman), Margaret Jarvis (minutes), Richard Paul, Jim Low, Andy Pointer, Trish Waite, Ian Wilkinson, Sandra Winter.

Apologies: Richard Legate, Innes Smith, Harry Ross
Advisors: Tim Fison

Tribute to the late Ben Henderson

Ben was especially valued for his role as deer culling co-ordinator

Minutes of previous meeting on 18th April, 2013 : Approved (prop IW, sec BH)

Matters arising

MJ was not in favour of marking Pauls' memorial oak copse with a plaque.

There had been no further meetings about the 'Living Landscape'.

A card thanking HPCLT for their visit had been received from the Cubs.

TW had sent a report to the journalist Melanie Bonn, but it had been somewhat distorted. She had so far not replied to a follow-up letter.

Treasurer's report IW now has an email address for HPCLT business.(ianwilkinson.HPCLT@yahoo.com)

He tabled detailed accounts and asked for any updates of the membership list. There was some discussion about Standing Orders still at £20 while the subscription had decreased to £10. IW will contact the relevant members

ACTION IW

Grant applications Willie McGhee had submitted a concept note to Heritage lottery fund. He would know by the end of June whether a full application should be submitted. There is no news about the major applications.

TW suggested *NatureSave* as a source of small grants, possibly for a bridge over the burn. She will investigate.

ACTION TW

SW will ask TimW about a design. **ACTION SW.** Sandy McAdam might have machinery which could help.

JL thought that planning permission would be needed.

Community visits

The Beavers, 6 to 8-year-olds, had enjoyed their visit, planting trees in a snow storm! The cubs had slightly better weather. They would like to come annually. SW and RP had presented participants with an Award Certificate.

Kenmore Primary may come in future; Breadalbane secondary pupils had come on two occasions; the first was more successful than the second. BH had written a tactful letter of thanks, emphasising the availability and suitability of DC for projects of various kinds. Perth College had been to the Braes of Foss car park in error. Pitlochry High School had been slow in making arrangements to come.

Trees. BH emphasised the need to focus on the WGS requirements, the planting of trees and their protection from deer browsing. He had emailed everyone but had very little feedback. He will speak to Julie Gardiner, about 'where, when and what next 'to plant and then to Willie Shorthouse, who knows the ground. BH will also ask JG if we need another survey before Matt Young's visit next month. **ACTION BH**

SW had arranged the contract to plant 22,000 trees with WS and she will contact him about it **ACTION SW**

The consensus was that it might be worth scattering tree seeds around, including ash.

Tree nursery BH had estimated that there are about 1000 trees in the nursery and tabled a sketch map. Ben had willows in pots at his home destined to go along the Schiehallion march as a decoy for any deer which got in .IW will transport them to the site **ACTION IW**

The question of water in the nursery was discussed. MJ will supply a watering can and large plastic buckets

ACTION MJ

A ram pump was again thought feasible. It could be a good community exercise but not before next term. AP will approach the school. **ACTION AP and RP**

Fences RP and TF had repaired 10 rotten posts near the stile (E31 on the map)

Deer: There is no update on culling. . Rob Coope had generously offered to take on the role of co-ordinating the culling, an offer readily accepted. There are currently four stalkers, Rob and Thomas Coope, James Shorthouse and Alec Towns. George McDonald, of SGA, had offered to stalk. BH will ask him to be available if needed. **ACTION BH.** TW had seen 120 deer just east of DC; this raised the question of safety of the cattle grid. Can deer jump across? A chicane was suggested. BH will consult Rob Coope. **ACTION BH**
Any action was deferred until there is a problem.

White Bridge area car park, pylon work, future Scaffolding will be going up to string the cables across. In November/December the reinstatement of the ground will begin. The hardcore will be removed and top soil replaced. The new lines will carry power next year and the old lines be taken down. Small tree species may be planted 5 to 25 m from the line; bigger species 25m to 40m and all species more than 40m. MJ volunteered to obtain wildflower meadow seed. **ACTION MJ**

The Smiths at Whitebridge cottage will be consulted.

The planning application for the car park has been validated; this will provide easy access to the old peat track and to the summit. A 'No overnight camping' notice may be needed together with a gate which can be locked.

JMT liaison, Living Landscapes, maps RP said that Liz Auty, JMT, will GPS the marked routes so that they can be mapped. MJ suggested that such a map should be included on a durable notice board in the car park(s)

Regrouping, Division of Responsibilities This subject was deferred . RP will keep an eye on fences and keep the CD up-to-date. BH will produce a plan **ACTION BH**

Garth Wood

HPCLT trustees minute their appreciation of the contact through the website. The new owners are keen to have all possible advice. MJ, Sandy Maxwell and Rick Worrell (forestry consultant) had met them on site. An oak tree had been ceremoniously planted.

Glengoulandie Chalets Work had begun on the seven chalets HPCLT had object to, but had been allowed, probably because the planning permission is about to run out. There is no time scale for completion. Responsible access by future residents should be encouraged, e.g. by providing information.

Membership:

Discussion of on-site publicity was deferred to the next meeting. IW and Robin Hull had a meeting but no document about Life Membership had yet been forthcoming. Colin Liddell has advised amortization of the life membership monies. BH and IW will put forward a definite proposal. **ACTION BH and IW**

AOB: 1 A volunteer ranger at Loch of the Lowes contacted HPCLT through the website for work; she could be asked to help plant Ben's willows

2 A US lady has asked if her ashes could be spread here.

3 The future of the open ground near the hut was discussed There was agreement that it should be left unplanted.

The meeting closed at 10.10 pm

Dates of next meetings; At the hut, at 7.15 pm : Wednesday 21st August

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The meeting closed at 9 pm