

Minutes of Trustees Meeting held on Monday, 26th January 2004, at Duireaskin, Aberfeldy at 7.15 p.m

Present: Paul Jarvis (chairman), Beryl Coope, Julie Gardiner, Bill Hoare, Robin Hull, Hamish Nicholson, Innes Smith, Margaret Jarvis (minutes secretary).

1. Apologies: Marjory Finlayson, Andrew Pointer, Ian Riddell.

2. Minutes of previous Trustees meeting of 10th November 2003: approved and signed

3. Matters arising: BC reported she had sent the accounts to Tim Ambrose on 13.12.03.

PJ said that one set of Edinburgh University student reports on trees along the Allt Mor was very professional and was available on a CD. BH suggested displaying this at the AGM.

IS reported no progress on the car park.

PJ confirmed that Charlie Taylor would speak at the AGM.

BH reported that 13 members of the Tryst Walking Group had visited DC with him and had given a donation.

4. Deer and goats; fence: BH had seen 60 or more deer about 10 days ago. The stalkers had been alerted and had shot 13; the rest had gone back through the fence whence they had come onto Garth land. The fence has been repaired by BH. There is a strong expectation that they will put further pressure on the fence in an attempt to return. Trustees should make regular visits to check on the situation and alert IS if deer are seen. PJ reported only four hinds seen two days previously.

The stalkers had counted one male goat and 11 females; Sandy McAdam will try to retrieve these

5. Keltneyburn hydroscheme: BH, AP and PJ had met with Jimmy Stewart and heard about the 'scoping study' - an early stage of the planning process - which is to be circulated to about 100 relevant organisations as recommended by SEPA (copies of the document are available from PJ). BH had recently visited the site with JS and reported that he is about to apply for a generating licence, which can take a year. Not all their funding is yet in place but their arrangements are proceeding. An invertebrate survey and botanical survey of the Allt Mor have now been carried out (copies of the latter are available from PJ).

BH reported that during the construction the scheme will require a temporary storage site approximately 22 x 30 metres, levelled to take pallets, next to the site of the weir etc. He has marked this area with red-topped canes and he circulated photographs showing the area. This would be in use for about 6 months and would be reinstated after completion of the construction. It was pointed out that we would impose criteria that would have to be met, such as avoidance of raven and peregrine nesting seasons. A likely positive result would be the creation of a seedbed for regeneration of birch and other species.

RH asked how the machinery would get to the site and was assured that it will come up the pipeline route, not on HPCLT land. BH asked if Trustees had full authority to approve the scheme on HPCLT land or whether it would need approval of the AGM. PJ will refer this to Colin Liddell. BH asked if there were any other questions to put to JS at this time and was then thanked for his efforts by PJ and the others present.

6. Footpaths, Forest Enterprise and JMT: BC, RC, BH, PJ, MJ, and AP had explored possible path connections in the FC plantations to the north in November. As a result AP had produced two maps of the possibilities (tabled). AP and PJ (with Andrew Campbell from JMT) had met with Charlie Taylor (FDM, Forest Enterprise) to discuss the possibilities. CT is willing to enhance access along the routes proposed, but was not prepared to designate formal paths with signage. 1) The route linking the two road ends would be improved. 2) A circular route from the car park would be created by linking existing rides and this route would connect onto DC. 3) A route from the east road along the power line connecting with DC would be made. He offered that FE would put in two kissing gates between their land and DC land and one between DC and Schiehallion. Hamish Murray (FE) will be in charge of doing this. RH asked for copies of the map for all Trustees and these will follow by post. **ACTION PJ & AP**

At the same meeting CT raised a question regarding the Schiehallion car park. He suggested that FE might put in a machine for voluntary payment for parking, of say £1 a day, to generate income to provide for the installation, care and maintenance of composting toilets, which could remain open in winter. These would replace the present toilets that have to be closed in winter and consequently become broken into, polluted and damaged. Whilst this is primarily a matter between FE and JMT, the Trustees had no objections to this proposal, provided that the reasons are made clear to visitors.

7. Woodland Grant Scheme and ESA Scheme: Progress has been made in discussions with Mike Strachan of the Forest Authority. The draft map that we approved in principle at the previous meeting, with some further reductions in planting areas by RA and PJ, was accepted. MS asked for a list of the changes that we were seeking to the original 1999 WGS and this was produced by RA, JG and PJ. Subsequently PJ received contract documents and maps to be signed by both PJ and IS. The contract was deficient in that it included as an annex the deer management plan that was annexed to the 1999 contract, and an unexpected change in the broadleaf planting specifications. PJ drafted a deer management plan appropriate to the present circumstances and that has been accepted. Some discussion is still going on with respect to detail of the broadleaf planting specification but it is anticipated that this will be settled shortly and the signed contracts submitted. RH asked for the contract map to be copied and circulated to all Trustees. He also suggested displaying the map at the AGM, in light of the public interest.

IS reported that the Rural Stewardship Scheme is replacing the ESA Scheme. Members of the ESA will automatically be members of the RSS. IS suggested that Richard Lockett of FWAG would do all the work involved for about £300. RH and JG offered to digest all the paperwork before the next meeting when a decision on further action would be taken. **ACTION RH & JG.**

An ESA claim now needs to be made. JG will prepare the necessary report and email it to IS who will send it off. **ACTION JG**

8. Publicity: There were conflicting opinions expressed about recent publicity in national newspapers. JG thought that other Trustees should have been consulted before the response was made to the journalist. However, BH pointed out that all Trustees should be able to respond as individuals, but not as a 'spokesperson' for HPCLT. It was agreed that the matter was now past and no longer relevant. BH proposed formally that RH continue as publicity person; HN seconded this, with none against.

9. AGM arrangements: The location will be the **main hall in the Town Hall, on Saturday 27th March in the afternoon**, as last year. The **Programme** will be: open 2 p.m. with **Displays** and tea, with Trustees present; **Talk** at 3 p.m.; **AGM** at ca 3.45 p.m. **Charlie Taylor** has agreed to give a talk on Forest Enterprise's 30-year-plan for their woodlands in the local area. JG made the point that this might provide an opportunity to influence FE policy.

Several Displays were proposed; others are required. Those proposed *so far* are as follows: the hydroscheme (to be provided by Keltneyburn Hydro Ltd., (BH to raise this with JS); woodland walks and path plans, much as above (AP); the ESA (IS, JG); woodland planting (PJ). PJ will also ask CT if FE could provide a display of their 30-year plan). JG also wondered if JMT, as an adjoining landowner, might also mount a display, possibly on integrated land management in the area. **ACTION BH, JG, IS, AP, PJ and others.**

PJ stated that **members must receive official notification of the AGM by 5.03.04.**

RH will publicise the date and that below. **ACTION RH**

10. Nominations for Trustees: Three Trustees are required to resign, but are eligible for re-election; in which case the nomination procedure must be followed. BC declared herself willing to resign.

Nominations must be in Mitchell's office by 19.03.04. These must be in writing, supported by two members, with confirmation of willingness to stand by the nominee. **Forms are available from MJ.**

So far, one nomination has been received. Marjorie Keddie had been nominated by MF and will be seconded by BH.

ACTION ALL

11. Tree planting: BC has put a line of canes marking planting sites in the field at Glengoulandie along the fence line to the left of the gate. Some saplings and some wild roses have already been planted. IR will plant some pine seedlings. Tim Fison was seeking a source of hawthorns.

12. Communications from J & H Mitchell: Duncan Thompson has now received the land certificate for DC, which he will keep in a strong room. It was decided to ask him also to retain the old title deeds, now no longer legally required. **ACTION PJ**

Changes to personal details were required by Colin Liddell to be made on the forms circulated during the meeting and returned to him. **Action PJ**

13. Any other business: BH reported that transmission lines carrying 400,000 volts between Beauly and Denny were proposed. There will be an exhibition on 16.02.04 in Aberfeldy Recreation Centre, 2.30 to 7.30 p.m.

BH also reported that Charlie Westland, the manager on the caravan site, now living in a caravan there, had been very helpful.

JG wished to scatter her dog's ashes on DC. This was approved.

RH asked for feedback on the Bird Report.

RH also asked for comments about seeking funding for his book from the wind farm companies. PJ thought that this might be too controversial at present, but as there will be a list of sponsors, including the barytes company, it was agreed to go ahead and ask them.

PJ will put in a new application for funding for the car park to 'Transforming your Space'. He has also had a discussion with 'Leader' in Perth about funding possibilities. **ACTION PJ**

14. Date of next meeting: Feb 23rd 2004