

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust
Scottish Charity Number: SC032801

Minutes of Trustees' Meeting held at Cluain, Fortingall on Tuesday 26 November 2013 at 7.15 pm.

Present: Bill Hoare (chairman), Margaret Jarvis, Andy Pointer, Trish Waite, Ian Wilkinson, Sandra Winter, Harry Ross
Advisors Tim Fison, Julie Gardiner,

Apologies: Richard Paul, Jim Low, Innes Smith, James Shorthouse, also Willie McGhee

Minutes of previous meeting on 21st August 2013 : Approved subject to correction of figure in the bank account from £5680 to £5860. Prop JG; sec IW

Matters arising: All to be covered in Agenda.

Treasurer's report: IW reported no change from last meeting (£5860 in Main Account, £3502 in Reserve). The lowered generating capacity of the Keltneburn Hydroscheme caused by implosion in a pipe would result in a smaller payment to HPCLT, due next year.

Grant applications: Liz Auty, JMT, had suggested sharing a project officer. This idea was generally welcomed.

BH and IW had a meeting with Willie McGhee a week ago. He needs to have letters of support from organisations benefitting from using Dun Coillich for his application to HLF. Garry Leck (PHS) has been asked to provide such a letter. Other suggestions were made: Scouts, Linda Swan (Breadalbane Academy), Kindrogan Field Centre, Universities which have visited, Forestry Commission (Rob Coope will be asked for advice)

Community visits: No further dates have been arranged.

Trees, WGS, planting plan, FC updates etc: Matt Young will visit again early in 2014. SW had spoken to Shane, who had actually planted the trees this year. He had indicated the areas planted on the large scale map. SW, HR and TW had checked on the ground. The FC are not rigid about the exact place of planting. Failure because of poor quality trees can be rectified; planting species in unsuitable places cannot. JG said that spring planting is preferable and that planting on the mounds, where there is less competition, is best. BH emphasised that the planter(s) *must* be adequately supervised this time. BH stated that Matt Young had said we could apply for part of the withheld WGS grant. It was decided not to do so at this time. JG was asked whether reducing the area to be planted, say from 250 hectares to 150 was an option; she thought it was. However AP thought it important to stick to our original commitment. BH summarised written views by IS and Rob C, and it was agreed we can budget £8000 for this coming spring, about 15,000 trees. JG will provide a guide map for planting. It was agreed that fertiliser would be used. She will put planting out to tender.

ACTION JG

Fences. Nothing to report.

Deer. IS considers that browsing is no longer a significant problem. He had organised a deer count with 8 people on 9th October. Total: one red deer stag, one hind, 14 roe and a fox. Rob C deduced from the red deer presence that there is a weak bit of fence. He would like to reduce the roe deer number to 4 or 5; to eliminate them altogether is not practicable. There is one fewer person to cull now that Thomas Coope has moved away. Rob C will advise if he needs a replacement "culler". IS will organise a future count.

ACTION IS

Paths & Footbridge: an up-to-date photo was circulated. A handrail is still needed and chicken wire on the steps and the decking. AP offered stainless steel staples and MJ offered chicken wire if it is the

right width. BH is keen to have a formal opening event.

ACTION AP, MJ, BH

Whitebridge area (car park, restoration programme, John's wood, future). BH, John Taylor, Gary Knox (SSE), David Feist (Balfour Beatty) had an initial 'marching out' meeting earlier today. They will be out by April. Relevant points; the post-and-rail fencing is easy to remove and is of value to HPCLT. BH to organise taking down and uplifting these materials. Volunteers will meet at 10 a.m. on site on Thursday 27th November to do this and to look at the feasibility of making use of the 300m of compound fence which will be available to us in April but is much more difficult to remove **ACTION BH and others**

There followed some inconclusive discussion about possible use of the large piles of sand on site. Jim Low will meet the planners today about the bellmouth which we have agreed to retain and disguise with planting. Any planting plan must be approved by P and K Council, as is standard practice. John Taylor has planted about 190 trees, mainly from the nursery, near Tomphubil..

JMT liaison, Living landscapes, Maps. A joint approach to a project officer was welcomed. TF will give BH contact details for the agent of the owner of the land across the road from DC. BH will ascertain whether a strip of native broadleaves along the roadside is to be planted

ACTION TF

AP had heard that this landowner had applied for planning permission to retain the tracks, which are an eyesore and are broader than forestry tracks. It was thought too late to lodge any formal objection.

Regrouping, division of responsibilities Discussion deferred.

Membership (Life and Recruitment): BH had circulated a proposal about life membership in advance of the meeting. This was agreed. Honorary Life Membership **could** be granted to someone who, in the opinion of 66% of the trustees, has made a major contribution to HPCLT, or to someone in Highland Perthshire who has made a major contribution to similar aims & objectives as HPCLT but not necessarily directly to HPCLT. A decision was made to announce at the next AGM that Ron Greer and Robin Hull would be awarded Honorary Life Membership. RP and SW will organise an appropriate certificate **ACTION RP and SW**

The sum of twenty times the annual fee, thus £200, was voted for as payment for normal Life Membership. This will entitle the member to a single vote, irrespective of the number in the family. No change to the constitution would be needed

IW expressed concern about standing orders still at £20. No action will be taken since all members have received information about the change to £10 for a family.

AGM March 2014. The 22nd March will be the date of the AGM. Kynachan hall will be the location. There was a discussion about possible speakers from a circulated list. BH will approach the first preference. **ACTION BH**

AOB: TW had planted in the nursery some tree seedling left in pots by the gate

AP would like to send a letter expressing our concern about tracks not being reinstated. BH will check the feasibility. **ACTION BH**

TF was concerned about the messy appearance of the car park. What should we do with the excess telegraph poles? No decisions were made.

Date of next meeting: Monday, 20th January 2014 at Cluain, Tomnacroich, Nr Fortingall at 7.15pm

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Addenda:
Nominations for Honorary Members of HPCLT-Nov 2013

Ron Greer.

Nominated by Andy Pointer.

He initiated the very successful Loch Garry Tree Project in the face of much pessimism and demonstrated that trees could thrive at that altitude and exposure, and although he failed to get support for a much larger project, has influenced forestry and upland management in Scotland ever since. He lives in Highland Perthshire.

It is considered he would be a valuable asset to HPCLT as an Honorary Member.

Robin Hull.

Nominated by Bill Hoare.

A founder member of HPCLT, a steadfast supporter ever since, he has contributed to the Trust in many, unique, and substantial ways. He organised data recording. For many years he made frequent literary contributions regarding the Trust and Dun Coillich. He wrote & published "Ravens over the Hill". He proposed an Information & Education Facility (OEF) & then organised a small group that raised all the necessary money, raised the OEF itself, and made sure it was equipped with a variety of information and educational leaflets etc. His was the concept of shallow ponds/scrapes that now enhance the biodiversity on Dun Coillich. Robin can no longer do so much on site, but he continues to make valuable contributions to the Trust, still putting forward ideas, and encouraging others.

I have no doubt that Prof Robin Hull well deserves to be made an Honorary Life Member of HPCLT.