

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust  
**Scottish Charity Number: SC032801**

**Minutes of Trustees' Meeting held at Moness Lodge, Aberfeldy  
Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Andy Walker (chairman), Margaret Jarvis (minutes), Heather Hamilton, Bill Hoare, Ann Macintosh, Mike Nixon, Richard Rees, Andy Pointer, Ian Wilkinson.

1: Apologies: Tim Fison, Julie Gardiner, John Marshall, Willie McGhee, Emma O'Shea, Richard Paul, Trish Waite, Bobby Wardle, Kelsey Wilson.

2: Minutes of previous meeting, 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2017: approved.

3: Matters arising.

No more biographies of trustees have been received. **PLEASE send yours to AW asap if you have not done so already. ACTION**

WMcG has still to produce a template for recording volunteer hours. **ACTION WMcG**

HH announced the arrival next week of a 'refreshed toilet' This was acclaimed.

4: Financial Report: the financial report (his final one) was circulated by IW. The balance in the business account is £21,934 and in the project account £2,145. A cheque for £14,000 was received from the Gannochy Trust on 22<sup>nd</sup> January; the first of three annually, in response to an application by WMcG. This triggered a discussion about a possible change of our accounts to Bank of Scotland in Pitlochry since the RBS branch in Aberfeldy is scheduled to close in June. A decision will be made later.

IW was thanked for all the work he had done so well as treasurer. He will now hand over to MN.

5: Project officer's report. This had been circulated by email.

The current Rural Skills course is coming to an end; graduation will be on 14<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm. All are welcome. The new course begins on the same date and the new trainees will be present.

Volunteers meet on Tuesdays at 10 am; more are welcome. Scraping out the 'scrapes', filling in potholes in the car park and stabilising the FC boundary fence are among the tasks awaiting.

HH will hold a 'Tree Planting Week' on 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Various local groups will come. All are asked to let HH know of other possible groups who might take part. **ACTION ALL**

HH will be involved with the SNH school camera trapping project again this year, working with Kenmore Primary, until the end of April.

A First Aid course on 28<sup>th</sup> February, part of the Youth Training Programme, will have spare spaces for anyone interested.

The Cairngorms volunteer day on 20<sup>th</sup> Jan was useful. Volunteers might be forthcoming; DC volunteer days will be advertised on the Cairngorms NP website.

HH will visit Lude, a JMT property, in March to learn about management there.

6: Forestry and deer culling report: RC shot two roe deer in November and has seen two since, using thermal imaging.

Gannochy Trust awarded a grant of £45,000 over three years.

The first cheque from the Griffin/Calliachar Fund is expected soon. A report on its use is necessary.

When snow permits WMcG will walk with Rab Robertson the fence for which funding is managed by Mike Daniels of JMT.

We will be soliciting sponsorship from local businesses for our part in the Heart of Scotland project.

7: Dun Coillich Management Group: A first meeting of this group, suggested by WMcG to oversee implementation of funded projects, will be held on Friday 26th January. The group will be WMcG, AW, MN, Rob Coope, JM, JG, IW and HH. Its powers need to be established; a ten-year management plan is needed; publicity at DC should be discussed etc.

8: Wee Birks Field Update: BH reported that progress was slower than he had hoped. However the boundaries had been defined. The right of access from the south is not clear nor is the boundary with Grovenor estate.

The residents were not in favour of major change to the field.

9: Hydroscheme Update: BH reported that income was down because of the relatively dry summer. Relations with Greenhydro Renewables were good. There has been a takeover by Gupta Alliance but this would not affect HPCLT.

10: Changes to Constitution: A special resolution to accept the updated constitution will be put to members at the EGM. A vote of thank to BH for leading on this was given, The subgroup (AM, RP, MJ) were also thanked. BH suggested making it available on the website as a link from the EGM agenda **ACTION RR?**

11: EGM to consider the special resolution to adopt new Articles of Association to be held immediately before the AGM: AW has drafted and circulated an agenda.

12: AGM preparations: AW has sent notifications of the AGM to the local newspapers for publication in the February issues. He will send to the Courier and Perthshire Advertiser. **ACTION AW.** AM will add a notification to web site **ACTION AM.**

RP will be asked to produce a poster **ACTION RP.** The necessary information will need to go to members by 1<sup>st</sup> March (2 weeks before).

Tim Ambrose has sent a draft of the accounts; WMcG will be asked to update where needed. It was noted that the word 'donation' includes both donations and grants **ACTION WMcG.**

BH had circulated a spread sheet of timing of Trustees' need to retire and eligibility for re-election. The new constitution will apply at the AGM provided that it is accepted by members at the preceding EGM. BH emphasised the need for new blood. All to send names to BH by mid February. **ACTION ALL.**

Only paid-up members are eligible to vote at the EGM; IW has provided a list. HH will collect further subscriptions at the door **ACTION HH.**

AW has requested contributions from Trustees for the annual report.

HH has ordered a gift for the speaker.

There will be exhibitions of photographs: 'Before and After', visits, trainees, camera trap results etc **ACTION HH.** It was agreed that photographs are not appropriate in the annual report.

There are new records from DC: early purple orchid and pale-bordered fritillary.

13: Web site and Facebook: RR reported that there were not many visitors to the website. He thought that a link with the Heart of Scotland project would be attractive. He will raise this at the DC management group meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January, also the use of PAYPAL for giving donations **ACTION RR.**

14: Standardised Distribution Lists: BH suggested agreement on a protocol for the distribution list **ACTION ?**

15: AOCB: WMcG would like to dedicate a bench on DC to the memory of his mother, who came from Rannoch. He would be responsible for its provision and maintenance and will choose the location. This idea was welcomed.

BH wishes to give up his role as liaison with SSE. HH offered to take over if there was no-one else **ACTION HH.**

The meeting closed at 9.30 with thanks to AM for her hospitality.

16: Date and Venue of next meetings

5<sup>th</sup> March: pre-AGM meeting 7.30 pm at Duireaskin, Aberfeldy (MJ's)

24<sup>th</sup> March: AGM

9<sup>th</sup> April: post-AGM