

**HOLME HILL COMMUNITY BUYOUT**  
**MEETING HELD ON 27 APRIL 2005, SCOTTISH CHURCHES HOUSE**

Attendees at 27 April Meeting:

Jim Bennett (Chair); Steve Mason, Rosemary Bland, Richard Bland; Caroline Crawford, Malcolm Wilson, Alastair Hulbert, Phil Tebutt, Andrew Gould, Dave Topliff, Ian Watt

Apologies

Alison Brown, David Totten, Claire Watt, Deirdre Wilson, Gerard Hastings, Paul Jones, David Prescott, Liz Law.

Agenda

1. Introductions

1.1 A list was circulated for attendees to enter names, telephone numbers and e-mails.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

2.1 The minutes from the meeting held on 20 April were approved.

2.2 Steve raised the matter that the group's constitution stated that the Board should consist of 9 elected and 5 coopted members, with 1 DDT Board rep, and that at each meeting we needed to identify those Board members present. It was decided that those Board members present at this meeting should be identified as elected members, with the others being coopted members. The elected members are thus – Jim Bennett, Caroline Crawford, Steve Mason, Claire Watt, Ian Watt, Rosemary Bland, David Topliff, Malcolm Wilson, Andrew Gould; coopted members – David Totten, Deirdre Wilson, Gerard Hastings, David Prescott and Liz Law; and DDT member John Seddon.

3. Matters arising

3.1 Caroline has produced some headed paper and distributed this as requested. There is more available if anyone wants some for correspondence.

4. Update – Jim Bennett

4.1 Jim briefly updated the group on progress over land valuations, the appeal and funding applications since the last meeting.

5. Appeal Procedure – Jim Bennett

5.1 Jim, Andy and Douglas met with the QC on Tuesday and discussed the appeal case. The appeal will be submitted to the Stirling Sherrif by the end of the week. Alison, Andy and Steve had prepared supporting papers which will also be submitted with our case.

5.2 Before submitting the appeal the matter of back up funding was discussed. It would be entirely irresponsible for the group to go ahead with this legal appeal process without taking full cognisance of the potential legal costs involved – i.e. as Company Directors we

need to be sure that we have the finances in place for the worst case scenario. Having taken legal advice on the likely maximum costs we could face, Steve has been seeking pledges to cover this, should this money be required. Individual pledges will remain entirely confidential. He outlined that he had now received 17 pledges to date. The total available for potential legal costs now stands at over £7,500, which should be sufficient. This is made up of £6,000 in pledges, £1,000 in donations, and a suggested £500 from the groups' fundraising efforts. Steve proposed that on this basis we agreed to go ahead with the legal appeal, Caroline seconded the proposal, and all were in agreement with this decision.

5.3 Under the terms of the Act we need to inform both the Scottish Executive and the owners (i.e. Hilton Hotels) that we will be submitting an appeal. Caroline will write them a very brief letter informing them of this and send it to them first class recorded delivery.

5.4 Since we will not now be using Elliots of Perth as legal representatives for our appeal case, we need to write and thank them for their help. Caroline will write and thank them.

## 6. Valuation – Rosemary Bland

6.1 Rosemary reported that she had received the written valuation from Hardies, although some uncertainty still remained over the status of some of the land in the minute of agreement. We need to check this out with the original copies of the agreement held by Stirling Council legal Department – Ian will follow this up.

6.2 Marshall Macallum also provided a written valuation and Rosemary has written to thank him for providing this service to us.

## 7. Finance Group Report – Steve Mason

7.1 Steve reported that the ceilidh total was in fact £1125 as there were additional outstanding overheads to pay – e.g. hall hire.

7.2 The account balance currently stands at £1932, with £250 outstanding for the valuation fee to Hardies. Caroline also has a bill for printing costs (from Communications group) from Stirling Reprographics for around £80, which she will pass to Steve.

7.3 Forward Scotland has awarded a grant of £1000 to the group to cover the costs of hall hire, stationary costs, meeting overheads etc. Jim will discuss hall hire costs for Scottish Churches House with Alastair Hulbert after the meeting.

## 8. Communications – Ian Watt

8.1 It was agreed that there was no need for any high profile publicity in the meantime. Caroline highlighted the fact that the next issue of the Community View was due out in mid June, with copy deadline of end of May. Depending on the timing of the appeal hearing, there may or may not be much to report, but an update on the group's activity would be useful. Caroline will draft a short article.

## 9. Events Group Report – Caroline Crawford/Dave Topliff

9.1 Dave suggested the possibility of some kind of Arts Event based on Holmehill/Braeport Centre in the summer. Further thinking is required on this. Caroline/Dave will get together and try to plan out a timetable of events for the following months, including the teddy bears'

picnic scheduled for June. Deirdre, Paul and Malcolm have agreed to help with the Events programme meantime as the ballot is currently on hold.

9.2 Jim and Gerard have agreed to have a further Holmehill fundraising ceilidh on 10 September, as Jim will be organising an event in Dunblane at this time anyway. Hall bookings and band hire costs will be covered. The Victoria Hall has been booked.

#### 10. Any Other Business

10.1 Caroline has contacted Tony Oteniya at Stirling Council re the proposed TPO for Holmehill. He appears keen to help, but the process may not be a quick one. Initially a tree survey if is required, and this then needs to be digitised – new guidance on the process seems to be in the pipeline. Julian Schad apparently knows how the process works and Stirling Council have commissioned him to undertake work of this nature in the past. Tony suggested that it would be best if both the Holmehill group and the Community Council write to him as soon as possible requesting that the TPO be taken forward. He will then be able to initiate the process. Caroline will write to him requesting that the TPO be taken forward. Also write to the DCC asking that they do the same.

10.2 Jim mentioned that he had purchased a copy of the 'Dowsing' book that had been mentioned at the public meeting. It contained much interesting material and might make a good event on the hill.

10.3 Hilary Davies had been in touch with Caroline to ask that the election hustings meeting scheduled for 3 May in Dunblane be brought to the group's attention – it may be an opportunity to ask prospective candidates on their views on community land ownership etc.

10.4 The next meeting will be at 7pm on Wednesday 11 May at 7pm in the Scottish Churches House Conference Hall.

Caroline Crawford  
Secretary  
7 May 2005

