

**Holmehill Community Buyout
Meeting Held on 20 July 2005, Scottish Churches House Annexe**

In attendance:

Jim Bennett (Chair), Steve Mason, David Prescott, David Woolley. Paula Woolley, Lesley Doyle, John Prosser, Phyllida Prosser, John Veitch, Penny Veitch, Sue Harley, Steve McGrail, Iain Watt, Caroline Crawford

Apologies

Richard and Rosemary Bland

Agenda

1. Introductions

1.1 All present introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

2.1 Clarification was requested of two points in the minutes from a previous meeting. The first relates to the statement about a 'meeting held with representatives from the Hilton'. Was this a meeting, or was it in fact a telephone conversation? It was clarified that there was no actual meeting with the Hilton, only a telephone call. The second clarification was in relation to mention of the Land Reform Act – the statement in the minutes is not in fact quite accurate as a new submission would only be required if the land was sold.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 There were no matters arising

4. Update

4.1 Jim provided an update on the Appeal case. He recently met with Douglas Brodie (solicitor), Andy Wightman and John Campbell (QC) to go over the points in the rebuttal case now submitted by Scottish Executive. Jim summarised the main points of this, which relate to the nature of the public benefit and whether or not the case should be referred back to the Scottish Executive following the Appeal. Hilton have also brought in a QC to represent them. Dates have been set for the case in Stirling Sheriff Court in the autumn.

5. Appeal Procedure

5.1 This is covered in point 4.1 above

6. Finance Group Report

6.1 Steve and Jim recently had a meeting with Katherine Francis from the Scottish Land Fund. She suggested that they submit an application as this would be the only real way of gauging the level of support which would be likely to be available. Up to £10K is available from the technical assistance fund for the production of a business plan, with further possible funding available for the actual land purchase.

6.2 Steve has also recently had a meeting with a Dunblane resident who is supportive of the project generally but, for various reasons, cannot get involved. He advised that it might be possible to raise financial support for the project from members of the Dunblane community, if approached in the right way. There was discussion as to how this might be done, including the idea of the production of a glossy 'prospectus' on Holmehill which would be circulated as appropriate to gauge the level of support in the community.

7. Communications Group

An article on Holmehill will appear in the next issue of the Community View.

8. Events Group

8.1 There is nothing to report from the Events Group.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Steve suggested that the meetings were rather randomly organised and that this often made it difficult for people to plan their attendance in advance. He suggested that they should be on the third Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm, with the venue Scottish Churches House. This would make the next meeting 17 August 2005 at 7.30. All agreed this.

9.2 Caroline was asked to clarify the position regarding the Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) on Holmehill. She explained that the proposal in the Local Plan was for a TPO to be designated on Holmehill by the Council. She had thus phoned Tony Otenya, the tree officer at the Council to ask about this. He suggested that what was needed was support from the community, followed by a tree survey. Caroline then wrote to Tony requesting that this be undertaken, and also wrote to the Community Council asking for their support too – they then also wrote to the Council requesting the TPO designation. So far nothing further has been heard back from the Council, so Caroline will chase this up.

9.3 Steve reported that the Dunblane Development Trust were keen to be kept informed of developments over Holmehill, and we will be talking to them in the near future.

10. Date of Next Meeting

10.1 The next meeting is on 17 August 2005 at 7.30 in Scottish Churches House.

CMC
Secretary