

# Holme Hill Ltd. Community Buy Out Group

## Minutes Of Board Meeting Of Holme Hill Ltd. held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2005 at Churches House

### **1. Present:**

J. Bennett	David Prescott
Rosemary Bland	Caroline Smillie
Caroline Crawford	P. Tebbutt
Diana Davies	D Topliff
Andrew Gould	Graham Whitaker
Gerard Hastings (Chair)	D. Wilson
Alistair Hulbert	David Woolley
Liz Law	Paula Woolley
Steve Mason	

### **2. Apologies:**

Sarah Aldred  
Alison Brown  
John Seddon  
Margaret Stewart  
David Totten

### **3. Minutes of Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> October.**

Accepted.

#### **Matters Arising:**

- Charitable Status: Steve reported that negotiations are proceeding. We should know before the end of December whether or not our application has been accepted.
- Tree Preservation Orders: Ann Dixon confirmed that letters were indeed sent to and received by Stirling Council. She has requested that the matter be dealt with as a matter of priority. Caroline Crawford to contact Mr. Otenya, the Tree Preservation Officer on 17<sup>th</sup> November.

### **4. Appeal Procedure**

A brief discussion about the Court Case took place. In general those who attended the Court seemed cautiously optimistic.

- A request for a short hand record and transcription of proceedings was declined by the Sheriff. This ruling was welcome, since it saved us additional costs of £4000.
- Jim Bennett gave evidence for 2 ¼ hours. He was widely congratulated for his defense of our position, (and for his stamina!)
- Angus Harvie (Development Trusts Association Scotland)) gave evidence as to what small communities *could* be expected to do in relation to developments in legislation, as opposed to what legislators prescribed.
- John Seddon gave evidence as a distinguished citizen of Dunblane to testify to the belief in the community that Holmehill was intended to be held in Trust for the town.
- Andy Wightman gave evidence for over 3 hours as an expert witness on the land reform legislation
- Mr. Frew, Head of the Land Reform Unit of the Scottish Executive, was still being examined by Mr. Campbell when **the Case was adjourned until Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November. 10.15am**

**Anyone who has time is urged to attend the Hearing to show support.**

### **5. Finance Group Report, including fund raising Prospectus**

- There have been five responses to the Prospectus
- The treasurer thinks it possible that people may be holding off until the Appeal is concluded.
- £3300 additional support for the appeal has been received over the past two weeks.
- Costs of the Appeal will depend on the outcome. We can meet our own costs, but will have to call in pledges if we lose. The Treasurer will contact all who have pledged money to remind them of what they have offered.

**Fund Raising** We need ideas for serious raising funds to but Holmehill.

- David Woolley to explore possible avenues.
- David Topliff to examine published literature on fund awarding bodies.
- Jim Bennett to approach Lloyds /TSB Foundation
- Fund Raising Sub Committee established. The Members are:
  - Andy Gould
  - Liz Law
  - Steve Mason
  - David Topliff
  - David Totten (not present) to be invited
- Liz Law offered a room with computer in Churches House as a physical base for the fund raising campaign. The offer was much appreciated. Details to be confirmed.

## **6. Communications**

Press Release on Court Case to be issued by Communications group.

## **7. Events Group Report**

Halloween on the Hill was a great success. All who helped were congratulated. It was again emphasised that the value of this event was to involve the community more widely. It also showed how the Hill *could* be used by the Community. Dave Topliff and his team were thanked. The next Hill Event is eagerly anticipated.

**Prize Bingo.** This will be held in the Holy Family Church Hall on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30. Prizes are ***urgently*** needed.

Suitable donations:

- Toiletries
- Alcohol
- Tinned food
- Confectionary
- Biscuits
- Picture frames etc..
- Scarves/ gloves.

Please hand stuff in to Margaret Stewart, The Office Ramoyle (824 538) Deirdre Wilson, Peartree Cottage Ramoyle ( She will collect Phone 825 101) or to David Topliff 2 Back Croft.

## **7. AOCB**

It was announced that Jim Bennett needs to reduce his involvement in the Campaign, so he will cease to be the Chairman. The vote of thanks expressed our appreciation of the enormous amount of work Jim has done, from his initial leadership in getting Holmehill Ltd up and running, his enthusiastic and encouraging chairmanship, his fund raising, through to the calm and skill he displayed as a witness on behalf of Holmehill Ltd. at the Appeal hearing. Sadly, however, we do need a new Chairperson. It is hoped that a new Chair will be elected at the next Board meeting.

## **8. Next Meeting**

Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2005 in the Annexe at Scottish Churches House

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Deirdre Wilson  
November 2005