

Holmehill Community Buyout

Board Meeting held on 7 December 8 2005, Scottish Churches House

1. In attendance:

Gerard Hastings (Chair), Rosemary Bland, Claire Watt, Steve Mason, David Prescott, Alison Brown, Alasdair Hulbert, Andy Gould

Apologies:

Jim Bennett, Caroline Crawford, David Totten, Dave Topliff, Deirdre Wilson, David Woolley, Paula Woolley, Paul Jones, Sarah Aldridge, Liz Law, Richard Bland

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. Matters Arising

Steve reported that Charitable Status for the Company has been achieved.

Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) – Caroline has written to Mick Stewart at Stirling Council as no response has been received from Tony Otenya. Formal application for TPOs is in process as of 6 December. David Prescott suggested that while a response should be expected this side of Christmas it is unlikely to give rise to any action until the New Year.

David Woolley had offered to explore avenues of fundraising; his daughter has produced a list through searching the internet for which the group are very grateful. This list will be pursued by the Fundraising Group. David Prescott also has a list of potential fundraisers which he will pass to Steve Mason.

Jim was to approach the Lloyds/TSB Foundation – Steve will follow this up.

4. Appeal Procedure

The Case will resume on 16 December and will hopefully complete the same day.

5. Finance Update

An anonymous donation of £500 has been received plus pledges totaling £1,100 as a response to the prospectus. Also one pledge for an amount as yet undisclosed. This appears a slightly disappointing response but it was felt that people may be awaiting the result of the case.

Steve reported that the financial situation is stable but will obviously be affected by the outcome of the case.

Alison Brown has been working on an application for a Technical Assistance Grant from the Scottish Land Fund. She has approached various Woodland Groups to invite them to tender for the development of a Business Plan, including costs and a range of options. The tenders are to be in by the end of December. She is looking at a separate application for running the ballot. She will hand everything over to the Communications Group at the end of the year; they will decide what action needs to be taken next.

6. Fundraising Group Report

The Fundraising Group has met once since the last meeting. They have undertaken to draft a standard letter to send to a range of organizations once the Court Case is complete and

depending on the outcome. They will also try to establish contact with other groups who have successfully raised funds for Community Buyouts.

7. Communications Group Report

A press release was issued re the suspension of the Case. Steve Mason will prepare something for the next issue of the Stirling Observer. The next occasion for a release will be the verdict. It is understood that the verdict will be communicated to our Solicitor. David Prescott will prepare one version for each possible outcome.

Caroline Crawford has put together another article for the Community View which will be issued before Christmas.

Paul Jones has agreed to take on responsibility for the Holmehill part of the Dunblane Website. Gerard Hastings has the display materials in the form of a Powerpoint Presentation – he will email this to Steve to see if any of it can be used.

The date of the next Communications Group meeting will be sent out by Rosemary by email.

8. Events Group Report

The next event is the Bingo evening – Wednesday 14th December at 7.30pm. Pay at the door.

Dave Topliff is involved in a children's show called the Ceilidh Tree which is currently on tour. This may be being performed locally and the cast will require a dress rehearsal. This will be held in the Braeport Centre on Monday 9 January. The show is aimed at the pre-school age group. Gerard will contact Dave to get posters from him, these need to be on display before the schools break up on 23 December. There will be no tickets for sale; entry will be by payment of a donation at the door.

9. Any Other Business

A successor needs to be appointed to replace Jim. Steve suggested that as it is a heavy responsibility the job could be on a 6 month rotation. David Prescott also added that it could be split into Media Spokesperson and Chair (who will co-ordinate all the Group's activities). It was agreed that:-

- Rosemary Bland will be the Chair of Holmehill Ltd
- Gerard will be the Media Spokesperson and will chair meetings.

The meeting on 15th March will be our AGM. Claire Watt will check the Memorandum and Articles to confirm what we need to do at an AGM.

Steve suggested that the lines of responsibility between the various sub-groups have become somewhat blurred. It is critical that each group knows its clear remit when the verdict of the Case is known and has a plan of action. It was agreed that Steve, Rosemary, Gerard and David Prescott would meet on Sunday 11 December at 6.30pm at Rosemary's house. Steve will bring a list of who is on each group.

Alison said that Jim has been asked to take part in a film and that the Holmehill campaign may form part of this.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 January at 7.30pm in Scottish Churches House.