

**Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Board of Holmehill Ltd  
Held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2006 in Leighton House, Dunblane**

**In attendance:** Phill Tebbutt, David Topliff, Malcolm Wilson, David Prescott, Gerard Hastings, Caroline Crawford, Rosemary Bland, Sarah Aldred, Andrew Gould, Liz Law, David Woolley, John Seddon, Steve Mason, Alison Brown, Caroline Smillie, Deirdre Wilson.

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Gerard welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Sylvia Jackson and Paula Woolley.

**2. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

**3. Matters arising**

a) Caroline Crawford has now received a reply from Councillor Dickson who has approached Stirling Council on the TPO matter. The outcome is that there is no need for a TPO as the trees are fully protected already. The group agreed not to pursue this matter further. Caroline will thank Cllr Dickson for her help in this matter.

b) Rosemary Bland has contacted our solicitors to ask how we will be informed about the court case decision. Apparently the Scottish Executive will send a letter to the solicitors once a decision has been made, and they will then contact us. Rosemary has also written to John Campbell QC to thank him for his work on our behalf.

c) Steve Mason has emailed/written to everyone who made pledges to cover the legal costs reminding them of the amount they pledged. This resulted in extra donations.

d) Rosemary Bland, Caroline Crawford and John Seddon attended the Community Ownership workshop, organised by Mark Ruskell, held recently in the Victoria Hall. They provided a résumé of the day, which was very worthwhile and interesting.

**4. Appeal Procedure**

Nothing further has been heard regarding the outcome of the case.

**5. Coordination Group Report**

This group has held three meetings over the preceding weeks. The matter of what the group should do in the event of losing the appeal was discussed. It was agreed that a widely advertised public meeting should be organised as soon as the outcome is known, in order to discuss the options available and to make a decision about what the Holmehill Community Buyout Group should do next.

**6. Ballot Group Report**

Deirdre summarized the discussion and findings of this group. Costs have been investigated for holding a ballot (run by Electoral Reform Society) using both standard postal voting and electronic voting; publicity for campaigning, including banners, balloons, 'blimp'; table at Tesco's, and posters around the town. The group also circulated a draft leaflet, which was agreed to be both suitable and effective.

## **7. Fundraising Group**

Steve Mason reported that this group had held several useful meetings. An application has been submitted to the SLF (for around £13,500) to cover the cost of the ballot and the business plan. Many other funding sources for land purchase costs have been investigated by the group. Liz reported that the 'Growing Communities' fund for urban communities is being launched in May 2006 and could potentially be appropriate.

Re the business plan, Caroline Crawford reported that specifications for the project had been sent out to tender to seven consultants on 3 March and that the closing date for submissions is 17 March. A small group needs to appraise these, and John Seddon, Caroline Crawford, Rosemary Bland and Andrew Gould agreed to meet on Friday evening to undertake this task.

## **8. Communications Group Report**

David Prescott has finalised the press releases for the possible outcomes of the case. Gerard will act as spokesperson for the group and the first point of contact for press enquiries.

Paul Jones continues to do excellent work improving our website, and the website address is being added to publicity material. Special thanks were recorded to Terence O'Byrne of the Dunblane Development Trust for all his help and support with the website.

## **9. Events Group Report**

Dave Topliff will try and come up for some ideas for a big event, possibly in late April (e.g. Karaoke night) when the court decision is likely to be known. Please contact Dave if you have any ideas for the type of event which could be organised.

## **10. Any Other Business**

A paper on the Roman and Dark Ages remains on Holmehill by Dr Orkney was presented to the Group. Dr Orkney is also willing to teach anyone interested how to dowse.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at 7.30 on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April in the Archie Craig room in Leighton House. It was agreed that an earlier meeting would be organised if a decision came before then.