

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Holmehill Ltd

Held at 8.00pm on 2nd May 2006, Archie Craig Room, Leighton House, Dunblane

- 1. Present:** Rosemary Bland (Chair), Jim Bennett, Caroline Crawford, Steve Mason, David Prescott, John Seddon, David Topliff, Claire Watt, Deirdre Wilson, Malcolm Wilson.
Sylvia Jackson MSP attended from 8.30pm until 9.00pm

Apologies: Gerard Hastings, Liz Law

2 a. Financial update

Steve Mason, Treasurer, gave a summary of H.H.'s financial position.

Outstanding bills to pay

Outstanding legal costs from QC and S&M	£5177.71
Invoice: Scottish Churches House:	£450.00
Total	£5627.71

Available resources

Pledges:	£5415.00
Balance in bank:	£3131.11
Total	£8546.11

Balance remaining £2918.40

2b Court costs : Costs have been awarded against Holmehill Ltd. We have no knowledge of how much the Scottish Executive and Hilton costs might be. The group was unanimous in its view that it was totally wrong that we should have to pay their costs.

Appealing the costs : The board discussed whether Holmehill Ltd should appeal against having to pay all the costs. Rosemary had contacted John Campbell QC, who offered to meet us soon to discuss an appeal. The consultation would be at no cost. S&M will also attend at no charge.

Agreed: That a meeting with John Campbell should be arranged and that Steve and Rosemary should attend.

That we would decide at a future meeting whether to appeal against the allocation of costs.

That Jim Bennett should forward to Steve Mason any emails he had received about legal costs

The board also discussed what would happen if Holmehill Ltd was presented with bills that it could not pay.

Rosemary Bland and Steve Mason had already seen Mr Alexander at Bartys. He said that he was not an expert in Company Law, but recommended appropriate lawyers in Edinburgh.

Agreed: That Steve and Rosemary should seek initial free advice from the Edinburgh Lawyers recommended by Bartys.
That Rosemary should contact Scottish Enterprise for possible advice.

3. Press Releases had been issued to the media, as soon as possible, on Saturday, 29th April. There was some cover in The Herald, The Sunday Times, the Dundee Courier, and on the BBC website. MSPs had also been notified. Community View is about to go to press, and will give prominence to the Judgement.

4. Andy Wightman's article on the Judgement had been circulated. It draws attention to apparent flaws in the Land Reform Act, in particular in the areas relevant to late Applications and to the process of appeal. There is also concern that too much power might now lie with Civil Servants who may or may not have time conscientiously to read the relevant documentation.

Agreed: That Andy Wightman be invited to speak to the EGM.

5. EGM Agreed that the Agenda for the Extraordinary General Meeting to be held on 8.5.06 should follow the Agenda of this Board Meeting

6. 1 The Electoral Reform Society has been notified that a Ballot will not now take place.

2 John Seddon will report to a Meeting of the Dunblane Development Trust to be held on 3.5.06.

3 Sylvia Jackson MSP will contact Rosemary on 8.5.06. She may be able to mediate with the Scottish Executive over costs.

4 Applications for funding for the Business Plan are still extant. Agreed that these applications should remain in place.

Meeting closed at 9.15.