

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Holmehill Ltd

Held at 7.30pm on 30th May 2006, 20 Dargai Terrace, Dunblane

Present: Rosemary Bland (Chair), Caroline Crawford, Gerard Hastings, Steve Mason, David Prescott, John Seddon, David Topliff, Claire Watt, Liz Law, Malcolm Wilson

Apologies: Deirdre Wilson, Jim Bennett

1. Financial Update

- a) Pledges - 100% of the pledges are expected to be received, most have already been. Simpson & Marwick's Solicitors', QC Campbell's and all other bills have been paid.
- b) Appeal Expenses – We have been in receipt of a copy of Sherrif McSherry's letter of 24 May 2006 which admits an error in not having a hearing about expenses. It is only of value to us if the other parties agree that we have a right to be heard on this issue. Nobody is quite sure what the ramifications are of this letter except that there has been a small miscarriage of justice. We need further legal advice but agree we would not appeal if advised not to do so.
We also have had a letter from Hilton expressing an intention to find a way to recover their costs, potentially through further legal action.
- c) Next Action - David Prescott suggested that, after legal advice, we formally ensure that all parties know we have no intention of appealing and that we cannot afford to do so. We would then offer all our remaining funds to the Hilton and Scottish Exec, leaving aside a small sum to allow us to stay afloat.
- d) Caroline mentioned the goods that are still in Deirdre Wilson's house. These goods are an asset that needs to be realized and added to our total. Liz Law mentioned a Scottish Churches House function that would be appropriate. We agreed to see whether Deirdre might be willing to organize a number of people to take responsibility for the stall.

2 Meeting between Rhona Brankin, Sylvia Jackson and Caroline Crawford

Caroline (CC) reported. She travelled to the meeting with Sylvia. The meeting was cut down from 1 hour to 20 minutes. Richard Frew was present. Caroline presented them with the local plan and pointed out that we were operating within the planning process. Mr Frew suggested he had seen the local plan even though that contradicted his testimony in court.

Ms Brankin insisted that McSherry's decision was right and proper. She said that we were perhaps badly advised by people who had a political agenda. Frew was adamant that the Hilton had a right to be there. He also said that he had told Jim Bennett that an appeal was going to be very difficult and that he invited us to a meeting to discuss alternatives to an appeal. Caroline asked for a copy of that letter which he said he would forward.

Mr Frew went on to say that he had purposefully kept costs low, using junior counsel etc. as he knew we would end up paying it. At the end of the meeting Ms Brankin suggested we begin the whole procedure again, through the auspices of the DDT perhaps, with a few minor adjustments to our application. David Prescott then suggested that we write to our debtors with the offer mentioned above and make reference to Ms Brankin's suggestion that it was in everybody's best interests that we should ultimately have a successful application passed. We need to consult Sylvia Jackson to make sure that she concurs with CC's interpretation of events at the meeting. All thanked Caroline for her efforts.

3. Proposed Meeting with the Dunblane Community Council and the Dunblane Development Trust

These groups have replied to Caroline's letter inviting them to become involved. John Seddon intends to set up a min-group within the DDT to work alongside us or (in the eventuality) to replace us. John and Rosemary are to set a date for the meeting.

4. Caledonian Trust

Gerard Hastings received a call from a colleague to vouch for the head of the Caledonian Trust as a "good egg". Mick Stewart from Stirling Planning Department also called him to assure him that planning will refuse permission on any building on the site. At this point, Rosemary recapped on what had happened at the meeting she and Gerard had attended with them. Rosemary asked directors if we thought we should shut down communications with the group. David Prescott said

he thought we should spin it out as long as possible. He mentioned new planning regulations that would become effective this summer. John Seddon advised caution with all dealings with the Caledonian Trust. Major discussion is still needed and possibly wider public consultation. Directors agreed that any discussions with Caledonian must stop short of any agreement.

5. Business Plan

Grants from both the Scottish Land Fund and the Big Lottery Fund have now been offered to us. We agreed to pursue the Scottish Land Fund offer. Caroline will write to business plan consultants to advise them of our current situation. Steve will email all the grant conditions.

6. AOB

Steve will organize a Board meeting to discuss Caledonian Trust for 14 June.
The meeting with the DDT and DDC to be organised asap (not possible on 21 June)

DT