

# **Holmehill Ltd**

## **Note of the Annual General Meeting of Holmehill Limited Held in Scottish Churches House on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2006**

There were 27 members of Holmehill Limited present.

Non members present were Mike Makower, Grant Wilson, Paul Dumbleton, David Stirling, Rachel Butterley, Chris Toop, Bob Williamson of the Quaker Housing Association and Michael McLeod of the Allanwater News.

Invited guests were Ian Philip of Dunning Community Woodland Association and Davie Newton of the Knoydart Foundation.

### **1. Chairperson's Report**

Rosemary Bland reported on the efforts of the group over the past year to secure a Community Buyout of Holmehill. She praised the members for their hard work and tenacity since the group formed and encouraged them to redouble their efforts in the coming months. The issue of the sale of Holmehill has galvanized the community of Dunblane in a remarkable way and each of the members has contributed in their own way to this renewed sense of community.

### **2. Election of Director**

Twelve Directors agreed to remain in place. Caroline Smillie, Phill Tebbutt and Alison Brown were elected to replace the three Directors that had stood down during the year.

### **3. Independent Financial Examiner's Report**

The Examiner's report was presented to the members.

### **4. Approval of Company Accounts**

The accounts were approved.

### **5. Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner**

Alan Watt has volunteered to be the Independent Examiner and this was accepted by the members

## **6. Visiting Speakers**

### **Davie Newton of the Knoydart Foundation**

Davie is the chair of the Knoydart Foundation, a successful community buyout group in the remote Knoydart peninsular. They had received great support from Highlands and Island Enterprise and the Scottish Executive and their experience of the process had been generally positive. He spoke eloquently about their efforts to raise funds to buy the land and the difficulties of satisfying the needs and opinions of everyone. He was largely optimistic about their future as a community in spite of many setbacks and the challenges which lie in being such a remote location and a very diverse community.

### **Ian Philip of Dunning Community Woodland Association**

Ian spoke of a very different experience. The Dunning Association had similar problems to Holmehill Ltd in registering their interest and in the end had purchased the land through a benefactor. Their plans for the woodland are very similar to Holmehill's and Ian offered to give advice to the group at any stage with fundraising and awareness raising. The addition of this community land to the village has had a hugely beneficial effect on the community as a whole and is proving a focus for village life.

The floor was opened to questions to both speakers and this led to a lengthy debate about the process of registering and the experience of each of the groups involved. Much information was shared and contacts for further advice offered.

### **Chair's concluding remarks**

Rosemary Bland thanked all those who had attended especially the guest speakers who had travelled some distance to be at the meeting. She observed that it had been an exciting year and that the determination of the group remains undimmed in spite of the setbacks encountered. Holmehill Ltd remains optimistic about the future of the hill and hopes still to secure a Community Buyout. The spirit that this campaign has engendered has been a great force for good in the town but there is much work still to be done and she felt sure that the group is ready for the task.