

HOLMEHILL Ltd

Minute of Board Meeting Monday 4th September 2006 in Scottish Churches House

Attendance

Board Members; Rosemary Bland (chair), Steve Mason, Caroline Crawford, Alison Brown, John Seddon, Dave Topliff, Caroline Smillie, Liz Law, Malcolm Wilson, Phill Tebbutt, David Prescott.

Apologies; Deirdre Wilson, Gerard Hastings, Andy Gould.

Welcome, Apologies and Actions Arising from Previous Meeting

Rosemary welcomed all present, the minutes of the previous meeting were noted and all action points were considered to be covered by the meeting agenda. Rosemary advised that she had phoned Richard Frew to thank him and Colin Gray for attending on 24th August.

Treasurers Report

In Andy Gould's absence Steve gave an update of the current position to inform the subsequent discussions. He reported that the company was just solvent with about £50 in the bank and the only current liabilities being the room hire to Scottish Churches House. It was anticipated that some money would be returned as a result of pledges that were give through the "Giftaid" scheme. However there was a need to generate about £1,000 per year to cover the most basic company running costs. There was general agreement that some fund raising activity was required.

Re-registration of Interest in Holmehill

Leading from Mr Frew's comments at the previous meeting there was a general discussion whether to start another application to register our interest in Holmehill. Given the encouragement from Mr Frew, the completion of the sale to Allan Water Developments Limited (AWDL), comments from other bodies and the general desire to continue the work that had been started it was **AGREED** by all present that re-registration should be taken forward and as soon as possible (as advised by Mr Frew).

New Application for Registration

As a consequence of the agreement to re-register our interest it was **AGREED** that a new petition with as many names as possible was required. The following actions were **AGREED**:

Deirdre's Ballot sub group and associated network is to be re-activated to collect as many signatures as possible.

Any wording to be used in support of the petition will be checked with Mr Frew.

An article should be written for the forthcoming edition of Community View. David Prescott agreed to draft.

Dave Topliff proposed that a wider communications network should be established with a cascade process using as many people as would be willing to help to act as local representatives and distribute information and leaflets to every street in Dunblane. There was general agreement of the need to develop such a network, which would be of interest to other bodies such as the Development Trust. It was generally felt that this might be developed from the petition name collection process, but this petition was the most critical activity at present.

An Open Meeting followed

Attendance : Board Members and Others: Ian Adam, Grant Wilson, Steve McGrail, Ron Lloyd, Jenny Price, Sarah Aldred, Paula Woolley, Mark Ruskell MSP.

Dialogue with AWDL

Steve Mason advised that Ian Stirling, MD of AWDL, had called at his home and introduced himself as the new owner of Holmehill. He expressed a desire to meet with us, but not the whole Board.

It was agreed that there should be a dialogue with AWDL but no negotiations. A small group were willing to meet with them (Steve Mason, Liz Law, Gerard Hastings, Rosemary Bland, Caroline Crawford, David Prescott) and Steve would seek to arrange a meeting in week commencing Monday 11 September.

Statement of Intent : Rosemary and Steve advised the group that they were drafting a statement of intent for Holmehill Ltd for 2006/07 for discussion at the next meeting.

Fund Raising

There was general consensus that more funds were required to support the agreed activities. The Fund Raising subgroup was to restart, with the task of generating enough money to keep the Group operational. Various ideas were suggested, such as widening the membership, having a higher membership fee and/or having an annual membership (as at Dunning). Other possible fund raising activities include the possibility of a ceilidh, although venues are limited.

Two other suggestions to raise awareness were a repeat of the guided walks over the hill and making more of the historic aspects of the site.

Communications Sub Group

This group needed to be reassessed. David Prescott was unable to act as Chair, but would continue to offer support in writing press releases and other articles. It was agreed that David would speak to Paul Akre to see if he could act as chair and co-ordinator. Initial tasks seemed to be in support of the Ballot Group in raising awareness of the petition and providing material to aid those seeking to signatures.

Other Actions

John Seddon agreed to arrange a meeting with the Community Council. It was suggested that they might make their views on Holmehill known to Stirling Council. Mark Ruskell offered support in this, possibly with Slyvia Jackson, and also assistance in reviewing the application from his researcher, Andy Thompson, contactable via his office in the High Street.

It was requested that as many Holmehill members as possible should attend the Development Trust AGM on Saturday morning.

Alison, Caroline Crawford and Dave Topliff would start work on a new application, but recognising that the previous application was generally considered to be a good one by Mr Frew it is intended to update and develop the previous application.

Date of Next Meeting

20th September at 7.30 in the Archie Craig Room at Leighton House in the Haining.