

Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Board of Holmehill Ltd held on Wednesday 15th December 2006 in Leighton House

In attendance: Phill Tebbutt, David Topliff, Malcolm Wilson, David Prescott, Gerard Hastings, Caroline Crawford, Rosemary Bland, Sarah Aldred, Andrew Gould, Liz Law, David Woolley, Paula Woolley, John Seddon, Erskine Duncan, Steve Mason, Claire Watt

1. Welcome and Apologies

Gerard welcomed all present. Apologies were received from Paul Jones, Jim Bennett, Alison Brown, Alastair Hulbert, Deirdre Wilson

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. Matters arising

Caroline Crawford has emailed Councillor Dickson but has not yet received a reply.

David Woolley pointed out that for the AGM to be within 18 months of the founding of the Company it must happen before September.

4. Appeal Procedure

The Court Case finished on 6th February. Those who attended felt that the QC for the Scottish Executive performed rather better in summing up than she had on previous occasions. The thrust of her closing argument was that the Sheriff has no right to decide the case as he cannot correct a ruling from the Executive and that the matter should be referred back to them for a decision. Our QC added an eighth reason why we could not have registered timeously – until the land was put on the market Holmehill Ltd did not exist. We will have to wait approximately 4-6 weeks for the judgement.

There was some discussion as to how we would be informed – Rosemary Bland will telephone our solicitor to clarify the procedure. She will also write to John Campbell QC to thank him for his work on our behalf.

5. Finance Group Report

The balance is currently £2,174. We have received an additional £1k from Andy Wightman, £500 from Development Trusts Association Scotland (Angus Hardie) and 600 from the Schiehallion Group of benefactors. A list of benefactors who have assisted us thus far is attached. It was agreed that we should pay our legal bills once we know the outcome of the case and how costs are awarded. We do not want to have to call in pledges unnecessarily. Steve will contact all those who made pledges to remind them of the amount they promised.

Steve has started the application to the Scottish Land Fund for our ballot costs in anticipation.

David and Paula Woolley's daughter, Anne, unearthed some promising leads for fundraising by researching on the internet - our thanks to her. Steve asked that anyone who has any ideas for major sources of fundraising should contact him.

Andrew suggested that we might approach the new owners of the Hilton to get them interested in our plans for Holmehill. David Topliff agreed that it is in their interest for example not to have housing spoiling the view from the hotel. It was decided to wait the outcome of the case before making any such approach.

6. Communications Group Report

David Prescott has drafted press releases for the possible outcomes of the case. These have been emailed to some Board Members for their comment. It was agreed that we will need to be ready to respond immediately the judgement is received. Rosemary Bland, Gerard Hastings, Caroline Crawford and David Prescott will get together and formulate a plan. The date and time of this will be discussed outwith the meeting. Liz Law suggested that we would need to be sensitive to the 10th anniversary of March 13th and ensure that no press release from Holmehill limited clashes with or is erroneously linked to that event.

Paul Jones has done some excellent work improving our website and has begun looking into producing additional pages. Steve will get in touch with Paul to discuss.

A picture of David Topliff's show, the Ceilidh Tree, appeared in the Stirling Observer. The group once again expressed their appreciation to David for his efforts.

7. Events Group Report

There are no new events planned. If we win the case it is proposed to organize a celebration/ fundraising/ awareness raising event. Gerard suggested that the Events Group and Communications Group should meet immediately after the result is known.

8. Sub Group Membership & Tasks

If we win the Case the Ballot Group will be of most importance at that stage. A list identifying the current membership of the various groups is attached to the minutes – more members are required for the Ballot Group, please contact Deirdre.

The Co-ordination Team will meet on Saturday 25th February at 9.30am to prepare our response to the ruling. Steve will email details of the venue. John Seddon mentioned a meeting to be held that morning in the Victoria Hall which has been organized by Mark Ruskell MSP to discuss local issues. He and Alan Booth have been invited to attend. Caroline will ask Alan for more details and investigate whether further representation from Holmehill Ltd could be present.

9. Community Consultation

A lengthy discussion ensued as to how we can raise more interest within the community in Holmehill and thereby ensure that sufficient people will care enough to vote. There is huge apathy in the wider community on all issues and we need to start a concerted effort to raise our profile in advance of the ballot. We need to persuade 50% of the electorate to vote and of them at least 50% must vote yes. The group need a strategy for getting information out into the community and likewise to discover what they want from us. We currently have no burning statement if intent for

Holmehill. David Topliff suggested that we could make short (max 10 mins) presentations to local groups to raise awareness and interest. It is likely that if people feel they have been asked they are more likely to vote yes. It was also suggested that different areas of the town need to be targeted differently – e.g. the population of the west side of the town may need to be persuaded rather harder than the east where the hill is situated. Rosemary Bland said that we should make a point of wearing our badges and publicizing ourselves to people. Information can be disseminated through Tesco's, School bag post, the Fling. Caroline Crawford also said that we should not underestimate the power of the national media. It will be the task of the Ballot Group to manage this task and it was decided that they should meet ASAP. The meeting will be held at Claire Watt's house – 20 Dargai Terrace, Tel: 821353 on Monday 20th February at 7.30pm. For the next 'Whole Group' meeting next month Rosemary Bland will try to find out a definite timetable of events that will follow the court ruling.

9. Any Other Business

Alison Brown sent an invitation to tender for producing our Business Plan to a variety of organizations. Only one definite tender has been received and it was agreed that we need a wider choice than that. Rosemary Bland and Caroline Crawford will widen the search. It is unlikely that we will have a Business Plan before the ballot takes place.

David Topliff has noticed an increase in the number of people walking on Holmehill since we began our campaign.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 7.30 on Wednesday 15th March in the Upper Common Room in Leighton House (the Archie Craig Room).



Financial Support

10 February 2006

Financial support for Holmehill Ltd

Forward Scotland	£1000
Dunblane Civic Society	£50
Dunblane Local History Society	£50
Individuals	£346

Financial support for the Appeal

Development Trusts Association Scotland	£1000
Caledonian Centre for Social Development	£2000
Lochgoil Community Trust	£50
Anonymous	£500
Schiehallion Group	£600