

Holmehill Ltd

Minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting Held in the Braeport Centre, Dunblane on 19 June 2007

1) Attendance and apologies

The meeting was attended by 19 members and 11 non-members. The non-members were Councillors Callum Campbell, David Goss, and Graham Houston; and the Chair of the Community Council, Terence O'Byrne, the Chair of the Dunblane Development Trust (Bryan Grieve), Erskine Duncan, Libby Hughes, Tim Hughes, Hugh McCrae, Charlie McHugh and Chris Toop.

There were apologies from the constituency MP and MSP, three of the seven List MSPs (John Park, Richard Simpson and Murdo Fraser), the Independent Financial Examiner, Alan Watt; Board Members Andy Gould and David Topliff; and Members Rob Forrest and Geraldine Goddard.

2) The Minutes of the 2006 AGM The minutes were adopted.

3) Chair's Report

Rosemary Bland outlined the main features of the last year. She paid tribute to the work of the late David Totten, our former Treasurer; Deirdre Wilson, who has moved to England; and Liz Law, who resigned to stand as a candidate at the parliamentary elections. She described the second attempt to Register a Community Interest in the hill, covering the difficulties with postcodes and the rejection of the registration because the new owners, Allan Water Developments, had signed an option agreement to sell the land to an unknown third party. She noted that we have written to the Scottish Executive suggesting that the rejection was legally mistaken.

She outlined the various successful fund-raising events. She noted that she was standing down as Chair, and thanked everyone who had contributed to a lively and active year.

4) Elections

a) Directors

Caroline Smillie was re-elected. One vacancy remains.

b) Office bearers

- i) Chair. Gerard Hastings was elected unopposed, and took the chair. He thanked Rosemary for her hard work as the previous Chair.
- ii) Vice Chair. David Topliff was elected unopposed.
- iii) Secretary. Steve Mason was confirmed, unopposed.
- iv) Treasurer. Andy Gould was confirmed, unopposed.

5) Independent Financial Examiner's Report

In the absence of Alan Watt, Steve Mason presented the Report which was noted.

6) Approval of Company Accounts

In the absence of Andy Gould, Steve Mason presented the Accounts, which were approved.

7) Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner

Alan Watt was confirmed, unopposed.

8) Discussion: The Way Forward

a) Seeking to register Holmehill under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003

Steve Mason gave a detailed account of our two attempts to obtain Registration, expanding the outline given earlier in the Chair's Report. In response to a question, he confirmed that there are no outstanding bills relating to the attempt to register.

b) The future of the Braeport Centre

John Seddon outlined the history of the Centre as a Primary School and then a Community Centre. He noted that the Dunblane Development Trust has recently leased the Centre

from Stirling Council, and is now responsible for running it. He noted that the Trust intends to apply for grants to improve the facilities, and that it is seeking to Register a Community Interest in the Centre under the Land Reform Act. In discussion, it was noted that the Centre has strategic importance in relation to access to any development on Holmehill.

c) Allan Water Developments: Their ideas for Holmehill

Steve Mason noted that Allan Water had met with the Chief Executive of Stirling Council. The notes of that meeting have been obtained under Freedom of Information legislation, including a plan for 32 detached houses, 22 “Village” houses, and a “New Community Facility”. The AGM was shown this plan, superimposed on other maps. It was noted that some of the proposed developments fell outside the land owned by Allan Water.

d) Responding to an application for planning permission

Caroline Crawford noted that she and Rob Forrest are preparing a set of notes to guide individuals who may wish to comment on planning applications. There was a discussion of effective tactics.

e) Introduction to the new website: www.holmehill.org

Grant Wilson demonstrated the prototype. There was a detailed discussion. The Chair confirmed that the site would be live within a week. Grant was thanked for his work.

f) Open discussion

Cllrs Callum Campbell and David Goss introduced themselves, and asked to be kept informed of the group’s activities. Cllr Campbell asked the group to note that Data Protection means that any communication addressed to a single councillor cannot be discussed by that councillor with colleagues: for that reason it is important to copy correspondence to all the local councillors.

Alan Booth noted that in the Section 75 agreement with Stakis plc the Council had made a commitment to maintain the hill. He asked why the commitment had not been kept. The councillors undertook to investigate.

Cllr Goss asked about the history of the northern boundary of the land acquired by Allan Water. John Seddon confirmed that the area to the north had been left to the Council by Mrs Donaldson, for the benefit of the children of Dunblane.

Alastair McCulloch and David Prescott pointed out the difficulties of access to Holmehill. The eastern entrance in Smithy Loan is very congested because of the dental practice and the primary school, and the western entrance is on a dangerously curved and steep section of Braeport. David noted the importance of reminding the Council that the original Section 75 agreement recognised that any further development would have to be limited in scope.

Bryan Grieve noted the importance of a flourishing and well-used Braeport Centre, and urged its greater use by members.

9) Closure

Gerard Hastings, closing the meeting, gave a brief review of important points for the future. He welcomed the involvement of local councillors; noted the key significance of access to the Hill, and the importance of the Braeport Centre; and stressed that we are involved in a “long game” that will be played out over years and not months. He noted our gratitude to Sylvia Jackson, our former MSP, for her support.