

# Holmehill Ltd

Minutes of Open Meeting of Board  
held on Wednesday 16 January 2008 in Leighton House.

**In attendance:** Steve Mason, Caroline Crawford, David Prescott, Malcolm Wilson, Claire Watt, Dave Topliff, Alison Brown, Caroline Smillie, Grant Wilson, Andrew Gould, John Seddon, Ian McLeod, Audrey Taylor, Patrick Brady, John Stassin, Lorraine Darwen Stassin, Stuart McKay (and Orla), Libby Hughes, Tim Hughes,

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

Caroline welcomed all present especially those who had not been before. Apologies were received from Rosemary Bland, Gerard Hastings, Lynn Ferguson and Sarah Aldred.

## 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Matters arising:

- Exhibition : It was displayed at Iona Leishman's art sale; it generated much interest and donations in the region of £250. Steve asked for suggestions about where the exhibition's could be sited (we have two identical roll up screens). The Braeport was suggested - Steve to discuss with DDT.
- The Oral History project has not yet been progressed but is on the agenda
- Big Lottery : It looks unlikely that we will be able to apply for Big Lottery funding as we do not fulfill the criteria in that we don't own the land.
- Girl Guides : Beth Hamilton will liaise with Steve McGrail re guided tour
- Bird survey : A date has yet to be set for the survey : Action Caroline C

## 3. Financial Update

Andy provided an update on the group's finances. We have a reasonably healthy balance which will be increased significantly once all the sales of the calendar have come in.

## 4 Land

### Investigation into land ownership issues at Bogside

Lorraine has been looking into land ownership of the Bogside site. In a deed dated 1955 Grace Donaldson allowed Stirling Council to build some houses on the flat part of the land, provided this was approved by her or her relatives. Local folklore says that the field between Holmehill and Bogside was gifted for the recreational use of the people of Bogside and indeed there are council minutes which make reference to this. The deeds of the land, however, do not mention this.

Steve suggested that it may be useful to trace Grace Donaldson's successors to see if they are aware that they may have some sway over the future use of this land. Malcolm Wilson will look into this as he has a family tree of the Donaldsons.

Caroline Crawford said that Stirling Council will be carrying out a review of Green Spaces and it is important that we should make it clear that this area is seen as green space. She has made contact with Jane Begg, Green Space Officer, and will keep in touch with her.

Steve was asked to arrange a meeting with the Development Trust about Bogside, with a view to then speaking to Stirling Council about any plans they may have for the site.

Steve also to check whether our Mem & Arts include the Bogside site.

## **DDT's registration of community interest in Braeport Centre**

John Seddon reported that registration is not imminent - the form is not yet complete. This is becoming a matter of some urgency as the signatures will soon be out of date. It was agreed that this issue should be discussed when Holmehill meets DDT. John will reiterate the willingness of Holmehill members to help at any stage.

## **5 Preparation for responding to planning application**

**Draft letters :** The letters are a work in progress; as soon as the wording is agreed they will be circulated as widely as possible. Ian McLeod said that he had been involved in planning objections to an application to build houses between Ochiltree and Kippendavie. The application was rejected. He would be happy to share this experience with the Group.

## **6 Other initiatives**

**Christmas Calendar :** Caroline Crawford expressed the group's thanks to Dave Prescott for his hard work in making the Calendar such a success. 500 were produced and only 5 are left - the profit is about £1,200. The project was a financial success and a great exercise in awareness-raising. Dave said that there may be an opportunity to sell other merchandise such as pens and Holmehill cards. **Action :** to be on agenda of next meeting.

Steve read out a letter received from Allan Water Developments Ltd in response to us sending them a calendar. It was agreed that Gerard should draft a reply to the letter.

**Action on S75 agreement :** Grant to discuss with Caroline C

## **7 Events**

- **Jazz & Blues Nite :** To be held on 29 March
- **Astrological Event :** To be deferred for the time being
- **Dawn Chorus :** To be held on Sunday 11 May
- **Fling by the River :** To be held on Saturday 24 May : Holmehill contribution planned
- **Family Funday :** 10 August 2008
- **Autumn Event :** Not discussed

## **8 AOCB**

- **Talk :** A dowser (water diviner) called Iain Orkney will be speaking at the local history society on 11 February in the Braeport Centre
- **Walk in the Mud :** Stuart McKay is involved in this annual event - a walk to Doune. He suggested that we could organise a Holmehill. This will be considered as a future event.
- **A Sponsored Toddle :** Another suggestion.
- **Holmehill Lodge :** The lodge is for sale.
- **Community View :** Caroline to draft article for the next issue.
- **Geocache :** Dave indicated that he is planning to hide treasure on Holmehill. Confused? Go to <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geocaching>

**8 Next Open Board Meeting :** Wednesday 20 February 2008 at 7.30pm in the Archie Craig room in Leighton House in the Haining.