Holmehill Ltd

Minutes Open Meeting of Board in Archie Craig Room, Leighton House, The Haining

Monday 28 March 2011

1	In attendance: Chris Spray [Chair], Phill Tebbutt, David Prescott, Steve Mason, Libby Hughes, John Armitage, Dave Topliff, Alison Brown and Guy Crawford	Action
2	Welcome and Apologies: Apologies were received from Caroline Crawford, Rosemary Bland, David Stubbs, Grant Wilson and Graham Houston.	
3	Minutes of Previous Meeting The minutes of the meeting on 27 January 2011 were approved.	
4	Matters arising from the Minutes None that are not on the agenda	
5	 Finances SM reported that accounts were submitted timeously to both OSCR and Companies House. Companies House rejected the accounts not because the figures were wrong but because some minor wording which had changed since last year was not as it should be. Because the resubmission was after the deadline, we were fined £150. The accounts were then accepted. The accounts accepted by Companies House were also submitted to OSCR. OSCR eventually decided that they were unacceptable for a range of reasons although they were in exactly the same format as the previous year. The deadline for resubmission was 06 04 11 .SM decided he did not have the knowledge or resources to respond to the latest demands, so he approached a local accountant. He said he no longer did OSCR submissions for companies limited by guarantee. He suggested a big firm like A9 in Dunblane. They also expressed grave concerns about the demands made by OSCR on small charities and then told us their bill would be £600 - less in future years. With the agreement of Chair & Secretary, A9 were hired. Sadly there was no alternative. For future years we may use A9 or ask the Holmehill membership if any suitably qualified Accountant would be prepared to do them 	SM
6	Meeting with Allanwater Developments. Graham Houston had facilitated a meeting with Mr Stirling of Allanwater Developments on 31 January. CS, DT and LH represented Holmehill. CS reported on that meeting. David Stirling suggested that he thought Holmehill was a site all parties could gain from. He said some of the available land could to be given to a suitable 'trust' with an endowment for maintenance 'in perpetuity', if there was building on the remaining land. But the more land the community wanted retained as open space the less money would be available for its maintenance. He avoided commenting on the gradual deterioration of the environment. David Stirling said that the Holmehill Group had been written to previously by AWD but he had received no reply. He said he would re-send a copy of that letter, but has not yet done so despite a request by CS, who will contact him again. This was not a planning meeting and we were not there to negotiate. We agreed we could take no further action until the draft Local Development Plan is published in November 2011. John Armitage noted that the Forestry Commission had recently held a course for school staff on Holmehill.	CS

7	Fallen Tree on Holmehill Core Path Richard Barron, Access Officer for Stirling Council, has written to say he will arrange for the council maintenance team to remove the tree, hopefully by end March.	
	 Events and Initiatives Environmental surveys CS continues to do these regularly and posts them on the blog. Chiffchaffs and a swallow have been seen - very early in the season. Fling by the River a 2 day event this year, but it was agreed to be there just on 28 May. SM contacted the owl group, but got no reply. CC had met and been impressed by an environmental artist called Kevin Blackwell who makes life sized animal sculptures out of branches, woven willow etc. We 	CS CC/SM/
	liked this idea and agreed to ask CC to explore this further. LS, CC and SM will coordinate, but as many members as possible will be needed to erect the marquee and 'man' it, probably on a rota basis.	LS
	• Litter Pick DDT Environment Group is organising one on Saturday 16 April, and we will encourage Holmehill members to join in and litter pick on Holmehill. LH will liaise with DDT.	LH
	 Dawn Chorus. Will be held again on Sunday 8 May as agreed at last meeting. 	CS/CW/
	• Flora Day Steve McGrail is unable to lead this. CC may be prepared to do this, possibly 4/5 June so we can advertise it at The Fling. If she is unable we may ask Debbie Long from Plantlife. Suggested 2 hours on hill followed by soup and rolls in Braeport.	LS CC/LH
	• Blues Night Victoria Hall has been booked for Saturday 12 November.	CC/ EII
	• Wildlife Photography Workshop CS to contact Lyn Bowser at Argaty to see if she would run a workshop.	DT/SM CS
8	Website and Blog DT agreed to re-design. All HH members to be asked to look at the Website and blog and to send comments to LH [to forward to DT] by the end of April. Comments will be welcomed on such aspects as what they liked/ disliked about the site, what was easy/difficult to locate and use, what new material might be included, what could be left off or archived, etc. DT would then return to the next Committee meeting with proposals as to how to take this forward so as to be able to redesign the site (and blog), having met and discussed with Richard Bland, Grant and any others knowledgeable in the meanwhile. He welcomed the offer of help with the website from Richard Bland.	DT
9	AOCB none	
10	Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 7 June in Archie Craig Room, Leighton House, The Haining at 7.30pm [LS and CC will be unable to attend] LH will put notice in Press and send out agenda. It was agreed someone else will take minutes.	LH
	This will be last meeting in Scottish Churches Houses, and we will write to thank them for their support over the years.	