

Holmehill Ltd

Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Board

In Cathedral Halls, Dunblane

Wednesday 13 June 2012 at 7.30 pm

- 1 **Attendance:** David Prescott [in the Chair], Lorraine Darwin, Jean Marie Stassin, Maud Crawford, Guy Crawford, Steve Mason, Libby Hughes
Apologies for absence: Chris Spray, Phill Tebbutt, Dave Topliff, Caroline Crawford
- 2 **Minutes of meeting** 20 March were accepted. No matters arising from the Minutes
- 3 **Finances:** satisfactory. £2260 in bank. . But there is a need to think about a small degree of fund raising to keep going
- 4 **Engaging with new councillors:** Mike Robbins [Labour] and Provost is new, Graham Houston [SNP] has always been interested and supportive, Callum Campbell [Conservative] has always been interested and supportive, Mark Ruskell [Green] is new but has been involved previously when he was a MSP, and has shown recent interest. It was agreed we should write to each of them and suggest a meeting. We should keep Corrie McChord, Leader of the Council, informed about Holmehill Community Buyout.
Action LH
- 5 **Responding to Scottish Government consultation on community empowerment.** We should respond emphasising the historical experience of Holmehill Community Buyout and our future aspirations. David Prescott will do some work on this. We need to respond by 29 August. **Action DP, CS, LH/all**
- 6 **Metasequoia/Dawn Redwood** on Bogside, Holmehill. Mr Moore of Smithy Loan was aware that this tree was planted about 1958. In 1948 a specimen was found in China. Previously it was known only from fossil remains. There are 3 known trees in Dunblane, 2 on Holmehill. The tree officer from Stirling Council has confirmed that, as it is within the conservation area, this tree will be afforded the same protection as if it had a TPO, should it come under threat.
- 7 **Planning Application 11/00788/FUL:** still pending. Awaiting a bat survey, a report by the Planning Officer, and being heard by the Planning Committee because of the great public interest demonstrated by letters of objection.
- 8 **Environmental surveys:** on going, always interesting and informative. Posted on www.holmehillblog.org and species numbers on BTO website. **Action CS**
- 9 **Adopt a Path survey:** Quarterly report on state of path and ‘furniture’ required in July. Need to report potentially dangerous branch above path. **Action LH**

10 **Events/initiatives**

- **Fling by River** 26 May 2012: went well. A lovely day and a good community event at which to show our presence. The face painter attracted people to our marquee, and the Holmehill quiz devised by Lorraine kept families amused as they waited. Thanks to all who supported and assisted.
- **Dawn Chorus** 6 May 2012: another successful event. About 30 attended including quite a few children. Again, thanks to all who supported and assisted.

11 **Meeting with archaeologist** 27 January 2012:

- He was interested in the tunnel – unusual
- The big oak tree, which had blown over, and evidence of glacial gravel suggests the land is undisturbed, so there may be interesting evidence under it.
- The Braeport meadow is very wet, so any organic material under it may be well preserved.

12 **Meeting with Anne McGuire MP** 13 April: she showed real interest, enjoying a walk over Holmehill and talking to the group. She agreed to be supportive.

13 **Community Woodlands** Annual Conference Newtown St Boswells 1 – 2 September 2012: Inform board members nearer the time of details to see if anyone is interested in attending. We should remain members of this group who have a wealth of knowledge about managing woodlands and funding available.

14 **Dunblane Council of Churches** St Blanes Day celebrations: we were informed they may be planning to do something. We expressed interest and offer of possible support.

15 **Website and blog:** Richard Bland doing a great job keeping this up to date.

16 **Date of AGM/next meeting** Thursday 23 August 7.30 pm, Braeport Centre: we should invite new councillors. We should use it as a brainstorming session re future fundraising and awareness events. . Please remember we need to be quorate for this once a year formal meeting