

# Holmehill Ltd

Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Board

In Braeport Centre, Dunblane

Thursday 23 August 2012 at 7.30 pm

- 1 **Attendance:** Dave Topliff [in the Chair], Phill Tebbutt, , Caroline Crawford, Lorraine Darwin, Jean Marie Stassin, Guy Crawford, Steve Mason, Libby Hughes, Diana Davies, Pat Kissock, Mary Toop, Graham Houston  
**Apologies for absence:** Chris Spray, David Prescott, Malcolm Wilson, Rosemary Bland, Richard Bland, Alastair McCulloch, Mark Ruskell
- 2 **Minutes of meeting** 13 June were accepted. No matters arising from the Minutes
- 3 **Finances:** satisfactory. £2200 in bank. . But there is a need to think about fund raising of about £1000/year to keep going. Brainstorm at AGM. Possibly hold a fundraiser outside Tesco.
- 4 **Engaging with new councillors:** Graham Houston [SNP], Callum Campbell [Conservative], Mark Ruskell [Green] have always been interested and supportive. Mike Robbins [Labour] and Provost is new, and we need to try to arrange to meet him. **Action LH**
- 5 **Responding to Scottish Government consultation on community empowerment.** David Prescott has done a lot of work on this. We should respond emphasising the historical experience of Holmehill Community Buyout and our future aspirations. Graham Houston emphasised the importance of this, and said that all submissions do get read. We need to respond by 26 September. All Board members should look at David's draft and send comments to him. David's draft will also be sent, for comment, to others who attended tonight's meeting. **Action DP/all**
- 6 **Planning Application 11/00788/FUL:** has been withdrawn.
- 7 **Environmental surveys:** on going, always interesting and informative. Posted on [www.holmehillblog.org](http://www.holmehillblog.org) and species numbers on BTO website. **Action CS**
- 8 **Events/initiatives/fundraising** We need new, fresh ideas. Maybe we can think of some way to involve Andy Murray. Brainstorm at AGM.
- 9 **Community Woodlands** Annual Conference Newtown St Boswells 1 – 2 September. No one available to go, but we should remain members of this organisation who have a wealth of knowledge. Invite Ros Mills again to meet us. Graham Houston informed meeting of Woodlot Association – we should consider contacting them.

- 10 **Dunblane Council of Churches** St Blanes Day celebrations: well attended historic walks followed by tea and children's games in Braeport Centre. Holmehill Group represented.
- 11 **Website and blog:** Richard Bland does a great job keeping this up to date
- 12 **Planning Application 12/00544/PPP** AWD has submitted provisional planning permission application to build 2 storey office block on site of former Holmehill House. Parking for 30 cars. Access from Perth Road/Smithy Loan. Lengthy discussion about this, and how we should respond. Neighbours had been notified 22 August. Final date for comments/objections is 21<sup>st</sup> September. Thoughts at this stage:-
- Any building would damage future use and integrity of hill/woods/wildlife
  - Road would damage woodland/path
  - Access poor
  - Little demand for office accommodation e.g. vacant units at Duckburn
  - Does not fulfil Class 2 criteria [as stipulated in Section 50/75 agreement]
  - Contrary to Local Plan 1999, emerging will of community as expressed in LDP, Conservation Area Assessment
  - Mary Toop will liaise with St Mary's School – parents and Head Teacher
  - Use website/blog/email/leaflets to inform people so they can comment/object.
- Decision was to consult views of HH members and community. SM has arranged initial meeting, 28 August 7.30 pm with Mick Stewart for Board and others. Will do Press Release and arrange Open meeting for week beginning 3 September to encourage wider response. **Action SM/Mary Toop/all**
- 13 **AOCB** DT emphasised the need for 'new blood' on the HH Board to bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm.
- 14 **Date of AGM/next meeting** Monday 12 November 7.30 pm, Cathedral Halls: 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

Libby Hughes 23 August 2012