

Holmehill Ltd

Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Board in Braeport Centre, Dunblane
Wednesday 17 April 2013

- 1 **Attendance:** The meeting was attended by David Prescott [in the Chair], Steve Mason, Caroline Crawford, Libby Hughes, Guy Crawford, Chris Toop, Claire Watt, Geoffrey Osborn.
- 2 **Apologies for absence:** Chris Spray, Lorraine Stassin, Richard Bland, Rosemary Bland, Alison Brown, Phill Tebbutt, Alastair McCulloch
- 3 **Minutes of meeting** 22 January were accepted.
- 4 **Matters arising:** We still need to arrange to meet Mike Robbins, Provost Stirling Council. We have made contact with the Woodlot Association, and need to follow that up. **Action LH**
- 5 **Finances:** Finances satisfactory, approximately £2000. We need some income to cover on-going costs. The financial year has ended and accounts are ready for preparation. SM informed the meeting that there is now a new way of registering small charities under 'SCIOS' which would be less onerous and costly than submitting accounts to OSCR. GC agreed to investigate. **Action GC**
- 6 **Meeting Keith Brown MSP** on 15 April. DP and LH met with Keith in connection with the review of the Land Reform Legislation and the Communities Day to be held in the Scottish Parliament on 26 April, where DP will represent HH. DP tabled a paper which had been presented to Keith, outlining key points, namely
 - The history of the HH campaign and our experience of the Land Reform legislation as it stands
 - The subsequent Court case and appeal
 - The view that 'Right to Buy' registration should be simplified
 - The view that, if a developer registers an option to sell land, there should be an obligation to de-register that option.
 - The onerous and costly OSCR processKeith listened sympathetically, offered constructive criticism, and agreed to write to the Minister responsible. We have contacted all our MSPs, but unfortunately none will be able to attend the event on 26 April.
A short report will be prepared to go on the Holmehill blog **Action DP/RiB**
- 7 **6th Holmehill Dawn Chorus Sunday 5th May 2013** CS will organise ornithologists. CW will be contact and organise breakfast. AB will put posters up in town. LH will do Press release. [CC, SM and DP are unavailable] **Action CS/ CW/ AB/ LH**
- 8 **Fling by the River Saturday 25 May** HH will be there with our marquee. SM, DP will be available, and it is hoped other Board members will be involved and help erecting/dismantling and 'manning' the marquee. www.dunblane.info group will have a display in our marquee. **Action ALL**
- 9 **Fundraising/events/initiatives** CC and LS agreed to look at this. Suggestions were a picnic on the hill, a photo course/competition [Lynne Bowser from Argaty had previously been suggested as a good photographer who may run a course], a music evening [Classical +/- Folk] **Action CC/LS**

- 10 **Proposed Stirling Local Development Plan.** The period for consultation has ended. Many representations were made in connection with HH. Unresolved representations will be presented to Stirling Council on 2 May and a report, which will include the Council's response to the issues, will go forward to the Examining Reporter for the Scottish Parliament.
- 11 **Planning Application 12/00544/PPP:** The application to build offices on HH was rejected. The 'report of Handling' and 'Decision notice' gave many good reasons why this application was out-with Planning policies. The developer may object to this decision. Keith Brown, MSP, said he would contact the Planning Department to ascertain if an appeal has been lodged. We will also contact the Planning officer before the deadline for appeals [20 May]. GC explained that the land may now be a less attractive asset to a property developer.
- 12 **Environmental surveys:** on going, always interesting and informative. Posted on www.holmehillblog.org and species numbers on BTO website. **Action CS**
- 13 **Website and blog:** Richard Bland has discussed the hosting arrangements with Grant Wilson, with a view to moving them into Holmehill's own name. However, Grant's most recent payments for hosting cover a two-year period ending in April 2014, and it would be best to review the arrangements then. **Action RiB.**
www.dunblane.info site is now active and contains links to www.holmehill.org
- 14 **AOCB**
- Illegal felling of trees in the rookery, within the Conservation Area, and during nesting season. The tree officer took immediate action when she became aware of this.
 - GO asked about membership. Currently we have about 120 members who have paid a one-off membership fee of £1. It was agreed not to change this at present as it gives us a large number of people with whom to communicate.
 - GO discussed the possibility of a tri-partite agreement between Stirling Council, the land owner and the HH group. CC informed us of the Community Land Advisory Group. This should be an agenda item for the next meeting, and may be something we should explore further when the LDP is finalised.
 - CC will contact Heather Christie to try to get a hard copy of the 'Green Walks in Central Dunblane' map. It was agreed DDT Environment Group could use this map for display boards, with acknowledgement of Holmehill's contribution. **Action CC**
- 15 **Date of next meeting** Thursday 13 June at 7.30 pm, Braeport Centre. **LH 2013-04-18**