

# Holmehill Ltd

Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Board in Braeport Centre, Dunblane  
Thursday 13 June 2013

- 1 **Attendance:** The meeting was attended by Chris Spray [in the Chair], Lorraine Stassin, David Prescott, Steve Mason, Caroline Crawford, Libby Hughes, Chris Toop, Claire Watt, Phill Tebbutt,.
- 2 **Apologies for absence:** Rosemary Bland, Richard Bland, Alastair McCulloch, Jean Marie Stassin, Pat Kissock.
- 3 **Minutes of meeting** 17 April were accepted.
- 4 **Matters arising:** LH met Mike Robbins, Provost Stirling Council, informally. He is aware of Holmehill and the aspirations of the Holmehill Community Buyout Group.
- 5 **Finances:** Finances satisfactory, approximately £1900. We need some income to cover on-going costs. The financial year has ended and accounts are prepared. They demonstrate that our major expense is Accountancy fees.
- 6 **'SCIOs'** This led to discussion on converting our charitable status to a SCIO. It would mean the accounts would be simpler (not requiring an accountant), and would be less onerous and costly than submitting accounts to OSCR. The meeting agreed this should be further investigated, and was likely to be the best option for the Holmehill Group. We should investigate whether we need to be a company, and if a SCIO could do a buyout. SM and DP agreed to investigate the necessary process and legal requirements. **ActionSM/DP**
- 7 **Communities Day in the Scottish Parliament on 26 April** David Prescott attended on behalf of Holmehill along with some 300 other representatives of community, voluntary and co-operative groups. The purpose was to expand on the public consultation, in advance of the forthcoming Community Empowerment Bill, and also the Land Reform Review Group's work. The event illustrated the wide range of community involvement, and demonstrated that there are a considerable number of obstacles for community and voluntary groups to overcome in the pursuit of better communities. From the answers to some of the questions it is not clear that the Government yet fully understands the issues and difficulties facing voluntary groups in moving forward land ownership. However the fact that consultation is progressing and the event was so well attended might help to progress change that will assist in achieving the desired Holmehill Buyout. It was important to have been represented there.
- 8 **6<sup>th</sup> Holmehill Dawn Chorus Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2013** attended by 6 people, less than previous years. A beautiful morning. Thanks to all involved, and CW who hosted a hearty breakfast. 34 species of birds were sighted or heard, roughly the same as last year, despite the much colder and later Spring. CS is authorised to do bird ringing with a mist net. It was agreed we should ask for the Landowner's consent to do bird-ringing as an educational event. **Action LH**
- 9 **Fling by the River Saturday 25 May** HH were there with our marquee. A glorious warm summer day with over 1,000 people enjoying the fun and activities on the Drying Green. It was good to meet familiar friends, sign up some new members, and inform new residents of Dunblane about Holmehill and our hopes to preserve and develop it for all the community. It was also good to host, within our marquee, the newly developed website [www.dunblane.info](http://www.dunblane.info) which is easy to search and has a wealth of local information – including information about Holmehill.

- 10 **Fundraising/events/initiatives** CC and LS came up with some great ideas to promote Holmehill and encourage enjoyment of it by the community.
- A Halloween night on Holmehill, probably starting 3 pm-ish Sunday 27 October, with kids dressed as 'night creatures', and cakes and raffle in the Braeport Centre. [clocks change to winter time that day, so dark by 4.30 – 5pm]
  - A fund-raising Ceilidh or jazz night in Old Churches House
  - A fund-raising Tesco +/- M & S collection day
  - Carol singing
  - A film afternoon – maybe 'The 39 Steps'
- Action CC/LS**
- 11 **Planning Application 12/00544/PPP**: The application to build offices on HH was rejected, and no appeal to the decision has been lodged. The 'report of Handling' and 'Decision notice' gave many good reasons why this application was out-with Planning policies. The developer may submit further planning applications.
- 12 **Environmental surveys**: on going, always interesting and informative. Posted on [www.holmehillblog.org](http://www.holmehillblog.org) and species numbers on BTO website. Core Path inspection done quarterly, with attention to state of path, potential dangers and state of way-marking 'finger posts'. Any perceived action needed is reported to Ranger Services.
- 13 **Community Land Advisory Service** We should prepare our thoughts about future strategy prior to publication of the LDP. This service has a wealth of information which may help us.
- 14 **Website and blog**: Richard Bland and Grant Wilson have sorted a problem and the website, blog and the links between them are now working.
- 15 **AOCB** none raised
- 16 **Date of next meeting and AGM** Monday 2 September at 7.30 pm, Braeport Centre. We will need to ensure good attendance so that we are quorate. **LH 2013-06-16**