

Holmehill Ltd

Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Board in Braeport Centre, Dunblane
Monday 2 September, following the AGM.

1. **Attendance:** The meeting was attended by Chris Spray [in the Chair], Caroline Crawford, Steve Mason, Libby Hughes, Malcolm Wilson, Claire Watt, Dave Topliff, Alison Brown, Alastair McCulloch, Aileen McCulloch, Tim Hughes, Chris Toop, Mike Christmas, Diana Davies, Mary Birch, Ian Adam, Catriona Whitton, John Crook, Steve Miozer, Brigitte Bech Voernes, Paddy Holmes, Peter Holmes, Douglas Steven, Ross Aylott, Mike Stevens, Gillian Atkinson.
2. **Apologies for absence:** David Prescott, Lorraine Stassin, Rosemary Bland, Richard Bland, Phill Tebbutt, Julia Hubbard, Graham Whitaker, Bill McLean, Gillian Osborn, Geoffrey Osborn, Christine Howe, Jean Marie Stassin, Maud Crawford, Guy Crawford, Mark Ruskell, Graham Houston, Martin Davies, Jenny Crawford, Ruth Bamforth, Chris Taylor, Callum Campbell.
3. **Minutes of meeting** 13 June were accepted.
4. **Finances:** Finances satisfactory, approximately £1600. We need some income to cover on-going costs. £350 is owed to Grant for the website over the past 4 years. The major expense is accountancy fees, due to the demands of OSCR, but we will continue to explore changing our status to a SCIO. This would make accounting simpler, but may also involve changing our M & A [Memorandum and Articles of Association]. SM and DP agreed to investigate the necessary process and legal requirements.

ActionSM/DP

5. **Tree felling** Unauthorised tree felling had been undertaken on the site of the former Holmehill House by Ian and David Stirling on 28/29 June. Ownership of Holmehill had passed from Allanwater Developments to Wardlaw Gardens, a Company registered by Ian Stirling in the Isle of Man. The tree-felling outraged many in the community. A Public meeting was held by the Holmehill Group on 4 July, attended by more than 100 members of the community, Ian Stirling, and Peter Morgan, Chief Planning Officer Stirling Council. There was widespread media coverage. Local elected representatives were aware of the strength of feeling within the community, and supportive of the approach of the Holmehill Group. Peter Morgan sent a 'Reinstatement Report' [attached]. We will ask the Tree Officer
 - by what date Mr Stirling is required to agree to/respond to this.
 - about the fire risk posed by the felled trees.
 - What are the plans for the remainder of the site and its management

Action LH

6. **Meeting Dunblane Community Council** CS, DP and LH attended the meeting on 29 July. CS summarised the history, the current position and future aspirations of Holmehill Community Buyout. DCC were supportive, recognising that the group represents widespread views within the community. We will continue to liaise with them, in particular encouraging Stirling Council to pursue Legal Action against Mr Stirling in connection with the recent tree felling.
7. **Halloween event** Sunday 27 October. A fun, story-telling, spooky evening in the Braeport and on Holmehill. Cakes and raffles. Dressing-up. To help raise awareness and funds. Several people offered to help. **Co-ordinators CC/LS**
8. **Other Fundraising/events/initiatives.**
 - Tesco collection day

- Carol singing
- A film afternoon – maybe ‘The 39 Steps’

Action CC/LS

9. **Environmental surveys:** monthly, on-going, always interesting and informative. Posted on 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.
10. **Community Land Advisory Service** LH had spoken with CLAS. They advised that they seek to liaise between landowners and others to help the uptake and use of vacant land. They advised to wait until the Community Empowerment Bill is published [probably within 2 months] and they will contact us then. This may change the basis on which we could negotiate the purchase of Holmehill. They suggest we should also consider the possibility of either a Community Share ownership or a ‘Right to Manage’ agreement.
11. **Website and blog:** Richard Bland regularly and efficiently updates. It costs approximately £100/year to manage.
12. **AOCB** PH asked about the aspirational views and general strategy of the Group, and if it could realistically buy Holmehill in the future. The current position was restated, that
 - We would work within the Law and Planning policies to protect Holmehill
 - The Section 75 agreement had stated there should be no further building on the hill
 - We were not in a position, and would not, negotiate any building on Holmehill
 - We will continue to promote Holmehill as open green space
13. **Date of next meeting** Tuesday 12 November at 7.30 pm, Braeport Centre.

LH 2013-09-03