

Holmehill Ltd

Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Board in The Cathedral Halls, Dunblane
Tuesday 12 November 2013

1. **Attendance:** The meeting was attended by David Prescott [in the Chair], Caroline Crawford, Steve Mason, Libby Hughes, Chris Spray, Lorraine Stassin, Chris Toop, Mike Christmas, **Apologies for absence:** Alison Brown, Alastair McCulloch, Rosemary Bland, Richard Bland, Paddy Holmes, Peter Holmes, Steve Moizer, Pauly Darnborough, Frances Rankin

2. **Minutes of meeting** 2 September were accepted.

3. **Finances:** Finances satisfactory, approximately £2100. £550 approximately raised by the Hallowe'en event. SM and DP agreed to investigate, before the end of the Financial year, the necessary process and legal requirements of changing our status to a SCIO.

ActionSM/DP

4. **Re-instatement following Tree felling** Tidying-up has started on Holmehill in line with the requirements laid out by the tree officer. Larger trunks have been removed off-site. Medium-sized branches have been stacked into biodiversity piles. Small branches have been chipped and this can be used as a habitat pile for invertebrates, and as mulch around new trees.

There is no evidence that replacement planting has yet begun.

It was agreed we should write to the Tree Officer to

- Invite her to address the next meeting
- State that we are concerned that the optimal time for re-placement planting i.e. November/early December may be missed.
- Ask that there is adequate protection to ensure newly planted trees are protected from deer, rabbits and squirrels.
- Ask that the Landowner is required to re-instate the Core path which is heavily rutted as a result of heavy vehicle use.

Action LH

5. **Review of medium and long-term objectives of Holmehill Community Buyout Group**

We need to consider this. Things which may influence our options are

- Stirling Local Development Plan 2012, when accepted Spring 2014
- The Community Empowerment Bill, just published, to which we contributed during the consultation phase
- Advice from Community Land Association Scotland [CLAS]
- Advice from Community Woodlands Association [CWA], of which we are a member.

DP agreed to draft a paper, for circulation and discussion, hopefully by Christmas.

He would be willing to meet with CLAS and CWA, to prepare for a wider discussion which might also require a Facilitator.

Action DP

6. **Future decision making/management process** To date meetings are 'Open' and minutes are made public. Circumstances, at times, have dictated that we have needed to be re-active. General consensus was that openness within the organisation is important in order to keep

the wider community informed and involved, and that no changes are required or desired to the current processes.

7. **Dunblane Community Action Plan 2009 – 2014** This is being reviewed by DDT. Holmehill Community Buyout Group was identified as an 'Actor' in addressing priorities. We have been invited to comment on what progress the group has made with some of the priorities identified. LH had drafted an initial response, and other actions were suggested to be added. LH to re-draft, circulate to Board, and reply to DDT by end December.

Action LH

8. **Halloween event** Sunday 27 October. This was a successful event. It was a fun event and attracted about 200, including many young families who may not have previously been involved in our activities. £550 was raised for funds, above our target. The organising team had reflected, and we would repeat it with minor changes. It was a good team effort, and all those who helped were thanked.

9. **Other Fundraising/events/initiatives.**

- An event at The Fling, or on the Sunday of The Fling weekend
- A 'Bioblitz', a 24 hour event where all flora and fauna is explored and recorded, using the expertise available locally. This would need the Landowners consent, and would take about 6 months to organise – a possibility for May/June 2015

10. **Big Lottery Fund information evening, invited by Keith Brown MSP** **LH will attend**

11. **Core Path surveys** done 4 times/year. Winter 2013/14 – CS [and maybe RoB]

12. **Environmental surveys:** LS has seen a red squirrel, and will report the sighting to Scottish Wildlife Trust [SWT]

Action LS

13. **Website and blog:** Richard Bland regularly and efficiently updates.

14. **AOCB**

CT notified the group that he has been elected to Dunblane Community Council.

CC has heard of someone who may do a story book on/about Holmehill. She will enquire.

15. **Dates of 2014 meetings - in Cathedral Halls**

Wednesday 12 March

Thursday 8 May

Tuesday 24 June

Wednesday 3 September AGM

Thursday 13 November

LH 2013-11-21