

Holmehill Ltd

Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Board in The Cathedral Halls, Dunblane
Wednesday 12 March 2014

1. **Attendance:** The meeting was attended by David Prescott [in the Chair], Steve Mason, Malcolm Wilson, Libby Hughes, Chris Toop, Dave Topliff, Claire Watt, Alan Watt, Phill Tebbutt, Terence O'Byrne, Ingrid Withington, Gill Allison, Anthony Birch, Mike Christmas, Maureen Mitchell, Andy Mitchell.
Apologies for absence: Alison Brown, Alastair McCulloch, Caroline Crawford, Rosemary Bland, Richard Bland, Chris Spray, Lorraine Stassin, Mark Ruskell, Paddy Holmes, Peter Holmes, Frances Rankin, Gillian Osborn, Geoffrey Osborn.

- **Re-instatement following Tree felling** DP welcomed Ingrid Withington, Tree Officer, who updated the meeting on the re-instatement work on Holmehill.
 - Tidying-up has been completed.
 - Replacement planting should be completed by 31-03-2014, but there is no evidence that has yet begun.
 - The fencing should be removed by 31-03-2014. Richard Barron, Rights of Way Officer, has written to the landowner concerning this.
 - Terence O'Byrne, Chair of DCC, agreed to contact Peter Morgan, Chief Planning Officer, to ask what action will be taken if the re-instatement work and removal of the fence is not completed by 31-03-2014.
 - DP reported that there are partially uprooted trees, resting on other trees. IW suggested we make the landowner aware of the Health and Safety issues arising from this.
 - A woodland TPO will be confirmed by end March to cover Holmehill, [but not the adjacent land at Bogside]. The landowner is required to apply for consent to undertake work on any tree greater than 1.5m tall, or 7.5 cm diameter.

2. **Minutes of meeting** 12 November were accepted.

3. **Finances:** Finances satisfactory. SM explained that Holmehill Community Buyout Group is currently a charity and a company, which makes accounting complicated and expensive. A 'SCIO' is more suitable for a small organisation. This would involve re-writing the M & A [Memorandum and Articles of Association] and taking them to an AGM for approval. We may need to change the name. Anthony Birch suggested someone who may be able to help this process.
At this stage we need to think of all the implications of making any change to our status.

4. Review of medium and long-term objectives of Holmehill Community Buyout

Group Stirling Local Development Plan 2012 – the Reporters’ report has now been submitted. Holmehill has been afforded as much protection as we could have hoped for.

Bogside – there is approval for up to 10 houses on the flat ground, and not facing Perth Road.

We agreed to meet to consider medium and long-term objectives in light of this.

Advice from Community Land Association Scotland [CLAS] and Community Woodlands Association [CWA], of which we are a member, will be sought.

Action LH

5. Dunblane Fling 24 May 2014

We will be there

6. Website and blog: The meeting was supportive of Richard Bland’s suggestion that he forms a website subgroup.

7. Core Path surveys done 4 times/year. Winter 2013/14 – CS and RoB reported on the poor state of the path as a result of heavy vehicles used for tree clearing.

8. Environmental surveys: monthly by CS, published on blog and species sightings submitted to BTO for the past 5 years.

9. AOCB

- Hallowe’en event – the only fundraising event planned at present.
- DDT Environment Group would like the use of the Holmehill marquee for ‘Scotlands Open Garden Day’ 8 June 2014 when hosta ‘Andy Murray’ will be launched. It was agreed that they could use the marquee, and that they should help us erect it and take it down at The Fling so that they know how to do it.
- CWA Conference will be held 22 – 24 August if any member is interested in attending.

10. Dates of next meeting - in Cathedral Halls

Tuesday 6 May 7.30 pm

Please note, this is a change of date

LH 2014-03-17