

Holmehill Ltd

Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Board

In Cathedral Halls, Dunblane

Thursday 13 November at 7.30 pm

1. Attendance/apologies

Present were:- David Prescott [in the Chair], Caroline Crawford, Steve Mason, Chris Spray, Chris Toop, Steve Moizer, Andy Mitchell, and Libby Hughes.

Apologies were received from :- Lorraine Darwen, Dave Topliff, Phill Tebbs, Rosemary Bland, Richard Bland, Claire Watt, Catriona Whitton, Paddy Holmes, Peter Holmes, Pauly Darnborough

2. Minutes of meeting 3 September 2014 were accepted.

3. Unauthorised tree felling and re-planting

- Mr Stirling has planted replacement trees on the top of Holmehill. They have been protected from rabbits but there is no deer protection yet. There are piles of wood chippings, but no biodiversity piles of logs. The site of the former Holmehill house and the tennis court have been cleared, and are apparently to be grassed. We are extremely disappointed by the outcome, as there has been little regard for flora and fauna, and the choice of trees is not in line with the original 'Reinstatement Report'. However, we feel we have done as much as we can through the regulatory process.
- The Heras fencing remains. Richard Barron [Access Officer] has written to Mr Stirling and asked for a response by 17 November. We have raised a petition through the Petitions Panel in Stirling Council to have the fencing removed. If the fencing is not removed we expect a Hearing of the Panel in December or January.
- A Bat survey was discussed. This is the responsibility of the Landowner before any tree work is undertaken. We know there are bats on Holmehill, but we do not have the expertise or access to do a formal bat survey.

4. Medium and Long-term objectives

- The LDP has been adopted although there is to be a review of provision of housing. Holmehill has been protected as 'Open Space Audit Site' where Policy 1.3: 'Green Network and Open Space' applies.
- The Reporter concluded that Holmehill should not be allocated for housing, recognising it as a '*very attractive and important townscape feature of Dunblane, and of the conservation area in particular*'.
- An interesting letter had been received from Murray Cook, Stirling Council Archaeologist, suggesting Holmehill may be of National significance.

- Bogside. Forth Housing Association has been tasked with providing housing in accordance with the terms of the Thomas Britten Trust. Although this land is outwith the area that Holmehill Community Buyout would hope to purchase, we are in a position to influence the outcome, with particular consideration to landscape impact, retention of trees and ideally the Metasequoia.
5. Community Empowerment Bill DP has been invited to give oral evidence to the Scottish Parliament's Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment (RACCE) Committee on the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill (with the focus on operation of community right to buy to date) on Wednesday 26 November. He has prepared a submission, summarising our history and difficulties with the current legislation. Appreciation was expressed of David's work in engaging at all stages of consultation concerning this Bill.
 6. Finances satisfactory, >£1800
 7. Hallowe'en event Sunday 26 October. Another successful event, attended by more than 60 children. It included a walk over Holmehill, introducing some families to the area for the first time. >£300 profit after expenses. AB suggested that we should consider savoury snacks next time, in addition to cakes/biscuits. Thanks were expressed to all who helped, but we do need more helpers on the day.
 8. Ceilidh Saturday 3 January 2015, 10th Anniversary of Holmehill Ltd. Old Churches Houses and Skelpit Lug band booked. 50 tickets available. £16 to include Stovies.
 9. Other possible Fundraising/events/initiatives
Possibly an Easter Egg Hunt, and a tree day in June. We should contact Beavers, Cubs, Brownies and Woodcraft Folk.
Possibly a Photography course.
 10. Environmental surveys and Core path surveys on-going CS/LH
 11. Rural Parliament, 6 – 8 November. We did not attend. It may not be very relevant to us.
 12. AOCB
Girl Guides' Christmas card sale, Victoria Hall, 1st November. DP represented Holmehill.
 13. Date of 2015 meetings in the Cathedral Halls
Tuesday 3 February
Wednesday 22 April
Thursday 18 June
Tuesday 1 September and AGM
Wednesday 11 November

DRAFT