

Holmehill Ltd

Minutes of the Open Meeting of the Board
In Cathedral Halls, Dunblane
Wednesday 2 September 2015, after the AGM

1. Attendance/apologies

Present were:- David Prescott [in the Chair], Claire Watt, Alan Watt, Caroline Crawford, Alan Booth, Dave Topliff, Steve Mason, Lorraine Darwen, Chris Spray, Tim Hughes, Anthony Birch, Ian Adam, Mike Christmas, Steve Moizer, Ross Aylott, Catriona Whitton, David Whitton, Frances Ainslie, Terrence O'Byrne, Robin Davis, Dave Stubbs, Graham Houston, Andy Mitchell, Frances Rankin and Libby Hughes.

Apologies were received from :- Chris Toop, Alison Brown, Phill Tebbutt, Sarah Aldred, Pat Kissock, John Kissock, Gill Rhodes, Brigitte Beck-Woerner, Rosemary Bland, Richard Bland, Alastair McCulloch, Graham Whittaker, Gerard Hastings, Paddy Holmes, Peter Holmes, Gillian Osborn, Geoffrey Osborn, Diana Davies, Martin Davies, Mike Stevens, John Crook.

2. Minutes of meeting 11 June 2015 were accepted. No matters arising not on the agenda.

3. Finances satisfactory. £1800.

4. Planning Application 15/00450/FUL to build a mansion on Holmehill. So far 74 objections have been logged, from both members and non-members of Holmehill Community Buyout Group. No site notices have been placed. DP has contacted the Planning Officer about this. This may mean there is an extended period during which comments can be submitted, but it is important to encourage everyone to put in their objections as soon as possible.

5. Hallowe'en event Sunday 25 October. This is an important fun event for raising awareness of Holmehill, and for raising funds. We do need lots of volunteers to help on the day as there are many young children involved. This year we will put the emphasis on savoury snacks rather than cakes and jams. CC will arrange a planning meeting. CC

6. Litter pick Saturday 17 October 10 am – 12noon. LD will organise and liaise with Council Officer. Meet at Braeport 10 am. All welcome. LD

7. Bogside A planning application has been approved for Forth Housing Association [FHA] to build 8 units. Unfortunately the central Metasequoia will be removed. There was discussion about asking that all the conifers are removed, and how the Group could work with both FHA and the Council to plant native trees, and develop the rising ground above the site, and possibly behind the garages. Graham Houston will ask the relevant Council Officer. Terence O'Byrne, Chair of DCC, thanked the group for not opposing the application.
8. Environmental surveys. Monthly environmental surveys have continued throughout the year, primarily focusing on bird populations, but with records of plants, butterflies, mammals and other wildlife as observed. The destruction of ground vegetation and the trees around the old house has led to some changes - notably more rabbits, and the loss of breeding Chiffchaffs and Blackcaps, not to mention the Willows, Birches, Brambles and other plants directly themselves. Numbers of Rooks are also down. The continuing lack of environmental management of the whole site is concerning. Areas such as the Braeport meadow could become a wonderful flower-rich meadow if properly managed. See the monthly reports at www.holmehillblog.org
9. Core path surveys ongoing. The large fallen conifer has been removed from the Core path.
10. AOCB
 - David Stubbs asked for volunteers to help the Woodcraft Folk, a group of young children who meet regularly and enjoy Holmehill. CC and CS will help.
 - Anthony Birch asked about the long term plans of the Group, and there will be further discussion at the next meeting.
11. Date of next meeting
Wednesday 11 November, 7.30 pm, Cathedral Halls.

LH 2015-09-06