

Holmehill Ltd

Minutes from meeting held on Wednesday 11 November at 7.30pm in Dunblane Cathedral Halls

Present

Phill Tebbutt, Catriona Whitton, Steve Moizer, Caroline Crawford, John Newman, Rosemary Bland, Richard Bland, David Topliff, David Prescott, Libby Hughes

Apologies

Graham Houston, Ian Adam, Mike Robbins, Alison Brown, Pat Kissock, Brigitte Beck-Worner.

Minutes from previous meeting

These were approved

Treasurer's Report

No financial report is currently available, but group finances are considered to be satisfactory.

AWD Planning Application for Mansion House

David P reported that this has now been withdrawn in the face of a 'minded to refuse' view taken by Council planning officers. 106(?) letters of objection were submitted by individuals and organisations. It is understood that AWD will in future be able to submit an amended application free of charge, but that none of the current objections will stand – i.e. objectors will have to write again in response to an amended planning application. It was agreed that a watching brief would be kept re further applications for the site.

Litter Pick in October

This was a successful event, with around 15 people taking part. Around 10 bags of rubbish were picked up on the site and this was taken away by Stirling Council. Lorraine and the volunteers were thanked for their efforts.

Spooky Fun event October

The event was considered to be a big success and achieved its aims of 'fun and fundraising'. Good numbers of families attended, with £279 collected on the door for entry tickets. A further £103 was taken on the food sales, and the snacks on offer seemed to go down well. Costs of £10 for leaflet printing and around £40 (tbc) for Braeport room hire will need to be taken off the totals raised, but the event will have raised the target sum of around £300. An article with a photo was carried by the Stirling News as well as on the Holmehill blog. The spooky walk over Holmehill was particularly successful this year and offered the opportunity to enjoy the hill lit up in the dark.

Thanks were recorded to the organising group of Libby, Caroline and Steve and Lorraine as well as to all the others who contributed food or helped out on the day in the Braeport or on Holmehill.

Guides' Christmas Card Sale

DP attended this and sold £27 worth of cards etc. A new member was also recruited. Attending this event brings good PR.

Bogside FHA Housing Development

The proposed development now has planning consent and work on the ground is likely to start in February/March 2016 and be completed by late autumn 2016. There will be 8 housing units, including 2 with wheelchair access and the letting conditions will ensure that those from Dunblane will have priority. David P and Dave T have contributed to the development process. The metasequoia tree and some of the lime trees on Perth Road will be lost but there are plans to plant new trees as part of the development. There are also ongoing discussions with Stirling Council about the possibilities of planting a small grove of native trees and shrubs on the steep slope at the back of the site (where it is hoped that thinning of the crowded conifers will be undertaken) and possibly across into the area behind the garages. Holmehill volunteer effort may be involved in this.

Environmental Surveys and Core Path Surveys

These are both ongoing, with regular reports on the blog by Chris Spray and path surveys completed by Libby.

Future Plans

Vigilance will be maintained re any further planning applications.

There was also discussion about possible future events on the hill in 2016, possibly including another teddy bear's picnic and a 'Fling on the Hill' event.

AOB

David P requested feedback and comments on his draft submission to the Planning Review as this needs to be finalised shortly.

Next meeting

Thursday 4 February 2016, 7.30 pm, Cathedral Halls