

Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust

Incorporating the Dùn Coilich Project

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held in the Monteno Memorial Hall, 2.00 pm Saturday 23rd March 2019

Welcome and Introduction: The Chairman, Andrew Walker, welcomed 50 people to the seventeenth AGM of the Highland Perthshire Communities Land Trust.

Apologies: Colin Liddell and Sarah Brown of J and H Mitchell, Audrey Litterick, Robin and Gillian Hull, Fiona Danks, Jeff Harrison, Willie McGhee, Loretta Reynolds, Jenny Rees, George Macdonald, Neil and Rosie Hooper.

1. *Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 24th March 2018 (previously distributed):* Approved (proposed by Bill Hoare; seconded by Tim Fison).
2. *Matters arising:* Subscriptions, changed in 2018 to be £10 per person instead of per household, are now to run from 1st February. This will facilitate sending out reminders to members.
3. *Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year to 30 November 2018 (circulated previously):* The Chairman highlighted some of the activities. The Project Officer, Heather Hamilton, runs the Rural Skills Training & Volunteering Project. Since it began in 2016, 19 young people have gained new practical skills. On volunteer day (Tuesday) 10 regular volunteers have clocked 1100 hours of work during the year, including fence reinforcements, tree maintenance and footpath marking and brush-cutting. More volunteers are made welcome! Maps of the path network were available. Heather also organises school visits, mainly for tree-planting. There is now a formal partnership with Breadalbane Academy Rural Skills Programme; and Pitlochry High School Junior Rangers are helped with their environmental work. The Chairman thanked Heather for all she had done, always with a big smile, and she was applauded by the meeting.

Funding is essential. Partnership in the Heart of Scotland Forest Project had resulted in generous funding from the John Muir Trust and the Woodland Trust of about £60,000. This had paid for new deer fencing, mostly along the Allt Mor. The Chairman thanked our neighbour, John Fry, for being very cooperative over the fence route; Green Highland Renewables for paying for hire of an ATV to transport fencing materials; and Matthew Boag, the fencer, for his excellent work in bad weather and difficult terrain. Our Forest Manager, Willie McGhee, has been largely responsible for ensuring that we will now receive the second stage Woodland Grant Scheme payments, initially some £25,000.

The main wildlife news in the report includes the bad news that two hen harriers tagged on Dun Coilich have been illegally killed. Waxwings have been sighted for the first time and a Large Red-belted Clear-wing moth has been recorded.

At the Wee Birks Field trainees have practised chain-sawing a sycamore which blew down and P7 pupils have made a bug hotel. We are taking time to deliberate about future use of the area.

The Accounts had been distributed and questions were invited. Tim Ambrose, the Independent Financial Examiner, was invited to comment on the Trust's financial position: he commended the treasurer, Mike Nixon, for an excellent set of accounts and noted that the Trust was in good shape financially. He pointed out that income had been boosted by the conversion of the annual small

wayleave payments from SSE to a single capital sum.

4. *Approval of Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year to 30 November 2018*

Approved: proposed by John Marshall, seconded by Julie Gardiner.

5. *Retirement and Election of Trustees:* Bill Hoare explained the situation.

Margaret Jarvis and Andrew Walker, elected in 2015 and 2016, respectively, must retire and may seek re-election; Richard Rees, Jeannie Grant and Robert Wardle, elected in 2017, and Bill Hoare, John Marshall and Mike Nixon, elected in 2018, may continue. Pressure of work meant that Emma O'Shea and Kelsey Wilson have resigned; James Banks and Isobel Filor were co-opted during the year.

Valid nominations were received for AW, MJ, IF and JB. Since there are more vacancies than nominations an election is not necessary. This leaves vacancies for two elected and up to three co-opted trustees.

6. *Subscriptions:* The subscription rate of £10 annually per individual was approved.

7. *Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner:* Tim Ambrose was thanked for his efforts over many years. He is willing to continue and was duly reappointed (proposed by Margaret Jarvis, seconded by Ian Wilkinson).

8. *Any other competent business:*

- AW thanked Margaret Jarvis who had been Minutes Secretary since 2002 and had recently retired from the post.
- There will be a Community Tree Planting day on 24th March.

The formal meeting adjourned at 14.50.

The Chair introduced the Guest Speaker, Claire Smith, RSPB Senior Conservation Officer, who gave a very interesting talk entitled *The work of RSPB and Tayside Raptor Study Group in Highland Perthshire*. As a thank you, a voucher for the Water Mill book shop was presented to her. After a stimulating Q and A session, refreshments were enjoyed.

THESE MINUTES TO BE APPROVED AT THE AGM IN MARCH 2020