



HIGHLAND PERTSHIRE COMMUNITIES LAND TRUST

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, Kynachan Hall, Tummel Bridge, Saturday 27th April 2024 14:00

1. Apologies

Kathy Butcher, Fred Cochrane, Fiona Danks, Loretta Davis-Reynolds, Julie Gardiner, Audrey Litterick, Colin McLeod, Alan and Jenny Phillips, Lou Radford-Oppenheimer, Donald Riddell, Colin and Rosie Stanfield, Jez Robinson, Willie McGhee, Julie Gardiner. The Chair advised that Fred Cochrane and Vicky are getting married today and sent them best wishes from all at HPCLT.

2. Introductory Remarks

The Chair welcomed those attending to the 23rd AGM and thanked the following:

- The members
- Heather Hamilton and Fred Cochrane
- Willie McGhee, Forest Manager
- Liz Elworthy, Financial Controller
- Our training partners
- Trustees
- Volunteers
- Deer stalkers
- Wendy Mattingley, who expertly monitors our hen harriers and other raptors
- Our partners in the Heart of Scotland Forest Partnership

and the organisations that fund our training, volunteer and education programme:

- The Gannochy Trust
- SSE's Griffin & Calliachar Community Fund
- The Robertson Trust
- The Hugh Fraser Foundation
- The Nineveh Trust
- The Basil Death Trust
- The John Muir Trust

The Annual Report covers the year's activities but the Chair highlighted a few specific things happening this year and beyond: as we now have had over 20 years of ecological restoration at Dun Coilich we have become interesting to parts of the research community.

- Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh have asked HPCLT to be involved in their Scottish Plant Recovery project which is intended to help restore ten species that are very rare in Scotland with some threatened with extinction. Dun Coilich will be one of a small number of sites in Scotland at which specimens will be planted in order to boost numbers and genetic diversity. The species will be:

- Wych elm saplings selected for resilience to Dutch elms disease
- Four small flowering plants
- One rare fern
- Wild apple saplings so that our venerable tree will have some diverse genetic company, and a better chance of a sustainable population becoming established.
- Butterfly Conservation's Highland Perthshire Community Engagement project as we have a number of rare species, notably the Pearl-bordered fritillary, Northern brown argus and the Red-belted clearwing moth. The intention is to boost numbers through habitat management and to involve our volunteers and the wider community.
- Edinburgh University has a student doing a Masters by dissertation which will involve interviewing volunteers to understand what motivates them to help at Dun Coillich and understand their links with the land.
- Aberdeen University have a PhD student coming in May 2024 to do a survey of water voles in collaboration with the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative (SISI) looking at the link between mink and water voles.

3. Approval of the Minutes of 2023 Annual General Meeting (previously distributed)

Approved.

Proposed: Richard Paul, Seconded: Jeff Harrison

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Approval of Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Independent Financial examiner, Tim Ambrose, was unfortunately not available to attend but has approved the Accounts.

Approved.

Proposed: Mike Reynolds, Seconded: Kirsten Parrish

6. Retirement and election of Trustees

The following Trustee will be retiring:

John Marshall - the Chair thanked John for his hard work over 6 years including 3 as Chair.

The following are eligible to be elected as Trustees:

Ian Harper - Proposed: Andrew Walker, Seconded: Fiona Danks;

Kirsten Parrish - Proposed: Donald Riddell, Seconded: Richard Paul;

Ian Selmes - Proposed: Fiona Danks, Seconded: Andrew Walker;

Colin Stanfield - Proposed: Richard Paul, Seconded: Donald Riddell.

These appointments bring the total number of trustees to 12 which is maximum allowed so an election is not needed. It is possible to co-opt an additional three.

7. Fixing the Annual Subscriptions

In summary the cost of membership has been £10 since the beginning of HPCLT and if this had increased in pace with inflation it would now be £17-19. However it was also felt that keeping it at £10 makes it affordable for more people.

A vote was taken and the results were:

In favour of raising the individual member's subscription from £10 to £15: 13 votes;
In favour of keeping the individual member's subscription at £10: 9 votes.
Therefore the individual member's subscription will be increased to £15.

8. Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner

Tim Ambrose was thanked for his continuing interest in HPCLT and for his meticulous examination of the financial accounts.

He is willing to continue and his appointment was approved.

Proposed: John Marshall, Seconded: Richard Paul.

9. Any Other Competent Business

None.

Finally, the Chair paid tribute to our former trustee, Richard Rees, who died in August. There is a brief account of his life and his part in HPCLT in the Annual Report. He wanted to help his local community in various ways and being a Trustee was just one way of doing that, for which we are very grateful.

The formal part of the AGM was adjourned at 14:25.

The Chair introduced the Guest Speaker, Rob Coope who gave a fascinating talk on 'Pine Martens: a personal story'.

An informative question and answer session then followed. Thanks were expressed for Rob's clear and inspirational presentation.

THESE MINUTES TO BE APPROVED AT THE 2025 AGM.