

FINDHORN BAY LOCAL NATURE RESERVE (FBLNR)

MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

**HELD IN THE JAMES MILNE INSTITUTE, FINDHORN AT 1900HRS
ON TUESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2016**

Committee members present:

Roy Dennis (RHD) - Chair

Mo Hyde (MH) - Vice Chair, also representing Findhorn Heritage

Ian Hampson (IH)- Treasurer, also representing Findhorn Fairway Committee

Mike Crutch (MC) - Secretary

Bill Barber (WB), Findhorn Angling Club

Colin Bell (CB), The Moray Council

Pat Carroll (PC), Findhorn & Kinloss Community Council

Cllr. Lorna Creswell (LC), The Moray Council

Karen Cunningham (KC), RSPB

Lisa Mead (LM), Friends of Findhorn Bay

David Shaw (DS), Dyke & Landward CC

Davina Thomas (DT), Findhorn Village Centre

Francine Rietberg, Findhorn Foundation

Apologies:

Donald Muir, Glenn Buchanan, Pete Finch, Ian Suttie, Bob Mackay, Richard Somers-Cocks, Christine Hunt

1. Welcome & recent news

RHD welcomed everyone. RHD wished to record the condolences of the committee at the passing of David Willing MBE. His funeral will be held on 20 December followed by a gathering at the James Milne Institute afterwards. *Secretary's Note: full details can be obtained from Andrew Smith Funerals in 01309 674383.*

2. Minutes of meeting held on 28 September 2016

a. Corrections to the minutes:

- List of attendees - Cllr. Anne Skene was not at the meeting as a formal committee member, therefore should be removed from the list

- Item 2 - two elected TMC members will also be part of the sub-group on wildfowling
- Item 3 & 5 re TMC planning application liaison - Lorna Creswell followed up this aspect with Beverley Smith at TMC and she is happy to include FBLNR MC in planning matters
- Item 7 - erroneous full stop in the figure quoted, should be £1,040
- Item 8 - Ian Hampson requested the team in place for the information boards maintain involvement of such, action erroneously assigned to Pat Carroll. The project was subject to a dedicated sub-group meeting on 11/11/16, and the notes of such will be attached to the minutes as Appendix A.
- Item 9 - the pavilion for the nature trail will be situated at the western extremity, not the northern.
- Item 10 - Colin Bell did not second Lisa Mead's proposal to join the committee. *Secretary's Note: Lisa Mead was tonight formally proposed by RHD, and seconded by PC as a non-voting member.*

The minutes were accepted - proposer IH, seconded by LM.

b. Actions in order as they were assigned in the minutes of 28/9/16

Action assigned to	Detail
Roy Dennis	Convene sub-group on wildfowling. <i>See Item 4</i>
Pat Carroll	FBLNR website - obtain invoice from Canary Dwarf and settle. <i>Completed - also see Item 5</i>
Richard Somers-Cocks	Publish FBLNR meeting list on FBLNR website. <i>Completed</i>
Mike Crutch	Publish FBLNR meeting list in Spotlight Magazine. <i>Completed</i>
Pat Carroll	Action assigned erroneously as Ian Hampson requested otherwise in order to preserve the team so far involved with such. <i>Dedicated meeting held 11 November and notes will be attached to this meeting's minutes for recording purposes.</i>

- Pat Carroll Appointment of Kinloss residents' representative to FBLNR MC; PC was to raise at FKCC meeting 29/9/16. *MH/RHD had conducted e-mail discussion regarding Emma Malone fulfilling this role, RHD intends to conduct a review of committee membership and therefore will place on hold any co-option at this time.*
Item carried forward
- Roy Dennis To co-opt Bob Laughton, Director FNLFT to the FBLNR MC. *See previous item above - item carried forward*
- RHD/Ian Hampson To inform The Moray Council of change to AGM date to March, effective March 2017. Ian Hampson to make any required accounting changes. *Completed*
- Roy Dennis To make initial moves to establish a tern species breeding island in the bay - **item carried forward**
- Colin Bell To seek use of community service work force to complete the Mosset Burn clear-up started by Richard Somers-Cocks. *Update received 12/10/16 from Colin asking for any requests to be sent to TMC's Mike McRitchie, Senior Task Supervisor tel 01343 557268/e-mail mike.mcritchie@moray.gov.uk. FBLNR MC members please take note of these contact details for future use*
- Pat Carroll/Colin Bell Complete draft of FBLNR management plan for circulation. *PC stated it was still in preparation, with offers of help from LM, KC and CB - item carried forward. Secretary's note: CB supplied the promised draft template document to PC on 7/12/16*
- Pete Finch/Colin Bell Arrange for vegetation cut-back and clear up around bird hide - *Richard S-C however dealt with the vegetation post meeting, as recorded in the minutes as a Secretary's Note. Richard suggests litter should still be monitored and dealt with as required. CB supplied details of community service contact for use as required (given above), and with his apologies for this meeting Pete Finch said that he had gained support from volunteers and all that's required is date to conduct the activity. With the next meeting timed in early Spring, the meeting agreed to discuss it then and arrange as required through the Spring/Summer - item carried forward*

RHD/Mo Hyde/Davina
Thomas/David Shaw

Form sub-group to provide overview of the land management aspects (leases, etc.) around FBLNR. *RHD had a follow-up meeting with Christine Hunt of the Findhorn Village Conservation Company after our last committee meeting, the summary of which was that FVCC's position was 'no change' over the lease previously arranged by Novar Estates with the FBLNR. Cllr Anne Skene (present tonight as a member of the public) queried the possible redundant status of any lease in the event of a change of land ownership. MH, in other discussions with Christine Hunt, updated that FVCC has yet to progress the Bay's Crown Estate land ownership future plans; PC commented this was around one third of the Bay's total area. RHD stated that he still intends to form the sub-group to look at all these land ownership/lease issues, once time and resources are freed up from the current wildfowling work - **item carried forward***

Pat Carroll

Approach SEPA and Scottish Water regarding the rusted waste overflow outlet pipes in Findhorn village. *PC in correspondence and outcome awaited - **item carried forward***

3. Chairman's report and update on wildfowling

RHD reported that he is still heavily tied into resolving wildfowling issue, and the sub-group for such will be held on 13/12/16. Pre-meetings with the main interested parties have been conducted to help fully understand the issues and suggestions they have for ways forward. The sub-group will consist of RHD as chair (supported by MC who will make a formal record of decisions), with LM and one other (to be advised) representing local residents, Ian Suttie plus one other (TBA) for ornithology/conservation, plus four wildfowlers (Colin Shedden/BASC, Alex Stoddard/SACS, Bob Mackay/FNDWA, plus Martin Gauld or Pete Boulton for non-affiliated wildfowlers. TMC will be represented by elected members (Cllrs. Skene and Creswell), plus Stephen Cooper - Head of Direct Services. Inspector Grant McCutcheon from Police Scotland-Forres will also participate.

RHD commented that despite pressures to do so, he had held off making any comments to the press ahead of the meeting as his pre-meeting work with all parties was a candid effort to help pave the way for he hopes will be one off meeting which will yield clear resolutions. RHD was not prepared to therefore widen the discussion this evening on the matter, but did undertake to convene a special meeting of this committee to feedback on the sub-group work. **Item carried forward**

4. Treasurer's update on finances

IH extended thanks to CB/TMC for an extra £250 towards costs of website maintenance; the costs of the project to establish such have now also been paid to Canary Dwarf, the website developer.

IH reported that a 50% deposit (amounting to £720) has been paid with the order for the eleven new, updated FBLNR information signs. The balance has to be paid after delivery and inspection later this month. IH recorded the committee's thanks to the Berry Burn Wind Farm Community Fund for their grant of £1500 for said signs, though the monies have yet to be released.

IH stated that the Bank of Scotland account, as of 25/11/16, stood at £650.71. The account's base figure is set at £301.01, therefore the balance remaining (£349.70) is not sufficient to pay for the signs.

PC stated that had completed the grant paperwork, but IH had not seen the progress of such; RHD committed to liaise directly with BBWFCF's administrator to ensure this occurs, and all paperwork is in order. **ACTION: RHD**

IH closed by underlining the fact that, as announced at the AGM 2016, he will be standing down as Treasurer at the AGM in March 2017. **ACTION RHD/all**

5. New matters arising

None notified.

7. Any other business

a. Port of Cromarty Firth (PoCF) ship-to-ship oil transfers

DS reported that he had attended a recent meeting in Nairn - convened by the *Cromarty Rising* action group - regarding the above, itself set against concerns of environmental impact in the event of an incident and the possible widespread effects across the Moray Firth area.

Figures quoted at the meeting were for 48 such transfers to be conducted through the year, though not in winter due to expected sea states therefore roughly two per week in late Spring/Summer/early Autumn was projected. Each transfer takes 24 hours to complete, with motherships offloading to smaller ships in one of four anchorage points. Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emissions will not to be collected, as determined by the PoCF and permissible as occurring offshore. Ballast water expelled from the ships will go untreated, which could be a concern if contaminated in any way.

After discussion, and because the statutory consultation period was opened and closed just under a year ago, RHD requested KC establish the RSPB response (presumably issued by the North Scotland office in Inverness) as well as clarify the ballast water requirements. **ACTION KC** *Secretary's note: post meeting, KC reported as follows: The Port Authority applied for this licence in December last year. RSPB and several other NGOs/SNH etc. responded, mainly with objections as there had not been an appropriate environmental assessment carried out. Due to the responses received the Cromarty Firth Port Authority are resubmitting a revised proposal. This is possibly due in January next year although this is not definite. This will be the opportunity for further representation to be made, for example from the FBLNR Management Committee, when the application is resubmitted. I also had a look into the rules around ballast water and at the moment there isn't a great deal of regulation. There is an International Convention which has been agreed but not currently in force - details here for information:*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/control-and-management-of-ballast-water>

b. IH requested an up to date versions of the FBLNR contacts list. *Secretary's Note: current version sent to IH 7/12/16*

c. IH asked if dates of the FBLNR MC meetings could be released to the local residents' newsletter - RHD replied in the affirmative.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 28 March 2017 at 1900hrs, commencing with the AGM, at the James Milne Institute, Findhorn.

Other 2017 meetings will be held as follows, again at the JMI:

Wednesday 21 June at 1930hrs

Thursday 21 September at 1930hrs

Tuesday 5 December at 1930hrs

prepared by Mike Crutch, Secretary FBLNR