

## **FINDHORN BAY LOCAL NATURE RESERVE (FBLNR)**

### **MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE JAMES MILNE INSTITUTE, FINDHORN AT 1930HRS ON WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2017**

#### **Committee members present:**

Roy Dennis (RHD) - Chair  
Mo Hyde (MoH) - Vice Chair/Findhorn Heritage  
Mike Crutch (MC) - Secretary  
Bill Barber (WB) - Findhorn Angling Club  
Colin Bell (CB) - The Moray Council  
Cllr Claire Feaver (CF) - The Moray Council  
Pete Finch (PF) - Findhorn Foundation  
Manja Hannon (MaH) - Friends of Findhorn Bay  
Simon Paterson (SP) - Findhorn Marina  
Davina Thomas (DT) - Findhorn Village Centre

**Apologies:** Glenn Buchanan, Karen Cunningham, Jen Heatley, Dr Colin Shedden, Ian Suttie, Carl Wright

#### **1. Welcome & recent news**

RHD welcomed everyone to the meeting. Following the recent community council elections, Findhorn & Kinloss CC failed to secure enough candidates but the process is being repeated for elections to be held on 19 December. Carl Wright has replaced David Shaw as Dyke & Landward CC representative.

RHD welcomed Cllr Claire Feaver to her first meeting and, although she will regularly attend in place of Cllr Lorna Creswell, RHD stressed that all of The Moray Council (TMC) elected representatives are welcome at these meetings.

#### **2. Minutes of meeting held on 21 September 2017**

The minutes were accepted - proposed by DT, seconded by MH.

Previous actions:

##### *a. Information boards*

MC passed on from Glenn Buchanan that the final Binsness board will be erected early 2018.

The quick reference (QR) code stickers on the board near the rifle butts has been continually removed by person/s unknown despite RS-C's best efforts to re-apply, after observations from Friends of Findhorn members.

RHD stated that TMC had erected signs to indicate the extent of council land on the east side of the bay, and that wildfowling within (above the mean high water mark) is not permitted, as per any landowner's right and not - as has been reported by some media and online sources - something new. In addition, at FBLNR's request TMC have also erected signs to support a voluntary no shooting scheme in the southeast corner of the Bay in order to minimise disturbance to winter roost/feeding flocks of wading bird species. The signs also request disturbance be kept to a minimum by other bay users. RHD expressed his thanks to CB and the team at TMC in this matter. **ITEM CARRIED FORWARD**

*b. Tern raft*

This will be sited in the Spring; RS-C suggested end of March as a deadline based on the arrival of Common Terns to the area. **ITEM CARRIED FORWARD**

*c. FBLNR boundary in the Netherton area*

CB had supplied a copy of the lease details - for the land around Netherton to the FBLNR - to RHD post meeting, which confirmed that the seawall was indeed included in the area of the reserve and therefore wildfowling would be required to seek permission to shoot from such. **ITEM CLOSED**

### **3. Chairman's report**

RHD reported that the wildfowling issue had continued to dominate his time and efforts. He had recently met with TMC staff and elected members, and continued to stress the need for byelaws to be adopted. At the end of the wildfowling 2017/18 season, TMC will require reports/reviews from all affected parties in order to consider for such adoption. RHD recommended that this committee be ready to review the FBLNR position at the next meeting (21 March 2018) in order for that to be put forward as quickly as possible.

Attention had been drawn by a member of the public to the potential dangers of plastic wadding (from shotgun cartridges) being deposited in and around the Bay. RHD had consulted with SNH, RSPB and shooting contacts who confirm the issue is occurring elsewhere. RHD suggested that a FBLNR-led beach clean up takes place in Spring next year. Secretary's note: a committee member conducted a clean up in a small area of the dunes a few days after the meeting and retrieved a number of these plastic wads which tides had lifted from within the Bay and dragged north.

On the wildfowling issue, MoH commented on recent police activity that had been reported, as well as a leaflet drop by unknown persons through local doors. RHD observed that the police incident clearly shows the need for local wildfowling to become part of a wardening team under a permit-based system in order to minimise misunderstanding and poor practices.

#### **4. Treasurer's update on finances**

An update is shown at Appendix A.

RHD commented that a change of signatories for the FBLNR bank account had yet to take place; SP will contact former treasurer Ian Hampson to resolve. **ACTION SP**

#### **5. New matters arising**

MaH enquired as to the status of the draft FBLNR management plan; RHD replied that this had yet to be progressed due to time limitations, but would attempt to get this back in motion with those previously identified committee members involved.

**ACTION RHD**

#### **6. Any other business**

Nil.

#### **10. Date of next meeting**

The 2018 series of meetings will be held as follows, all at the James Milne Institute, Findhorn:

Wednesday 21 March 1900hrs (AGM), main meeting at 1930hrs

Tuesday 19 June 1930hrs

Thursday 20 September 1930hrs

Wednesday 5 December 1930hrs

prepared by Mike Crutch, Secretary FBLNR

## Appendix A - FBLNR accounts 2017/18

### Findhorn Bay Local Nature Reserve Management Committee

#### Receipts and payment Accounts for the Year ending March 2018 (incomplete)

<u>Receipts</u>		<u>Payments</u>	
		Moray and Nairn Newspaper	£36.01 Cash
		WP Forms Website (\$39)	£29.47 Cash
		Ian Hampson	£41.57 Cash
		Glen Buchannan	£88.76 Cash
		Wildfowling Permits+	
		Wildfowling Permits	
		Notice Boards	
		Notice Boards	
		<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>	<b><u>£195.81</u></b>
Surplus of payments over receipts	£195.81		
<b>Balance Sheet</b>			
<b><u>Opening Balance</u></b>		<b><u>Closing Balance</u></b>	
Bank of Scotland	£908.41	Bank of Scotland unconfirmed	£908.41
Petty Cash	£6.08	Petty Cash	<del>£189.73</del>
		Surplus of payments over receipts	£195.81
	<b><u>£914.49</u></b>		<b><u>£914.49</u></b>

Simon Paterson  
Hon Treasurer