

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

**MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

**HELD IN THE JAMES MILNE INSTITUTE, FINDHORN AT  
1930HRS ON WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH 2018**

**Committee members present:**

Mo Hyde (MH) - Vice Chair, also representing Findhorn Heritage  
Simon Paterson (SP) - Treasurer  
Mike Crutch (MC) - Secretary

Bill Barber (WB), Findhorn Angling Club  
Colin Bell (CB), The Moray Council (TMC)  
Glenn Buchanan (GB), Royal Findhorn Yacht Club  
Karen Cunningham (KC), RSPB  
Claire Feaver (CF), The Moray Council  
Pete Finch (PF), Findhorn Foundation  
Manja Hannon (MaH), Friends of Findhorn Bay  
Jen Heatley (JH), SNH  
Bob MacKay (RM), FNDWA  
Dr Colin Shedden (CS), BASC  
Ian Suttie (IS), nature conservation/ornithology  
Davina Thomas (DT), Findhorn Village Centre  
Carl Wright (CW), Dyke & Landward Community Council

***Apologies:*** Roy Dennis, Richard Somers-Cocks

**1. Welcome & recent news**

MH welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Minutes of meeting held on 6 December 2017**

The minutes were accepted - proposed by CF, seconded by JH.

Previous actions from the 6 December 2017 minutes were as follows:

*a. Information boards*

GB informed the meeting that one more had still to be erected, at Binsness. **ITEM CARRIED FORWARD**

*b. Tern raft*

As indicated in the AGM Chairman's Report, this will be sited by the end of March. MC thanked SP and Richard Somers-Cocks for arranging the rescue of such after it broke its previous moorings in the stormy weather in January. IS queried the raft's resilience to potential mammalian predators of eggs and chicks, due to the numbers of Otters and Badgers in the area; SP replied that the design incorporates fencing protection against such, so hopefully it will be kept to a minimum. **ITEM CARRIED FORWARD**

*c. FBLNR Management Plan*

MC reported that RHD has so far been unable to progress this due time constraints but the re-issue (based on the re-draft started in 2017) will hopefully start to worked upon in the coming weeks. MaH volunteered her assistance to help with such. **ITEM CARRIED FORWARD**

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

As per the AGM submission earlier in the evening.

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

As per the AGM submission earlier in the evening.

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

a. RM sought clarification on the land accessibility, and guidance of such, for wildfowling in the Netherton area. MC replied that as discussed at the previous meeting, a copy of the 1995 land lease confirmed that the sea wall in the Netherton was confirmed as being within the FBLNR boundary, therefore the wall and all land north of to the mean high water mark was not available for wildfowling unless permission was sought. MC agreed that the guidance map as published, due to the scale, was ambiguous and this would be addressed in due course. MC stressed that this was private land leased to FBLNR, and therefore outwith the restrictions specified by the signage on Moray Council land in the southeastern corner of the bay. **ACTION: MC to be borne in mind when redrafting future maps/CLOSED**

b. MC thanked those committee members that had fed back comments on the 2017/18 wildfowling season, which were being collated by the Chairman for passing

to Stephen Hooper/Lorna Davidson at TMC. All feedback was required to be with TMC by 30 March. *Secretary's Note: post meeting, TMC's feedback form was passed onto committee members should they or any of their acquaintances wish to send any further comment by the deadline.*

## **6. Any other business**

a. Having been invited for comment earlier in the evening, a member of the public raised concerns over the potential environmental damage that can be caused by the plastic wadding as dispensed from shotgun cartridges during the wildfowling season. Much discussion ensued, including comments by CS that such plastic wads are associated with steel shot cartridges (versus the restricted lead shot version) and slow progress is being made to include a bio-degradable wadding for these. Following various statements and exchanges, it was agreed that a litter pick should be convened as soon as possible and CB would enquire as to TMC's ability to supply equipment (grabbers, refuse sacks, etc.) for such. *Secretary's Note: TMC have declared the ability to supply such items, and the matter now rests with the committee to organise*

b. MH stated that Richard Somers-Cocks had attended a recent public event covering the A96 dualling project, and the potential for a northerly route option to impact upon the southern extremities of the bay. Both JH and KC stated that SNH and RSPB are statutory consultees to the Transport Scotland project though encouraged a FBLNR response direct to Transport Scotland. **ACTION Chairman/ Richard Somers-Cocks**

c. KC raised the issue of disturbance of seals at their haul out area at the mouth of the bay, having been report through RSPB's Inverness office. After discussion, although the committee supported any measures to reduce such, the area concerned is outwith the FBLNR therefore recommended information boards or similar be placed in the main Findhorn beach car parks and that Forestry Commission Scotland do something similar for those accessing via Culbin Forest. *Secretary's Note: post meeting, SNH and TMC representatives are working towards such*

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

The 2018 series of meetings will be held as follows, all at the James Milne Institute, Findhorn; **note that the June date has been amended over that previously published and agreed at tonight's meeting:**

Thursday 7 June 1930hrs

Thursday 20 September 1930hrs

Wednesday 5 December 1930hrs

prepared by Mike Crutch, Secretary FBLNR