

FINDHORN BAY LOCAL NATURE RESERVE (FBLNR)

**MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE JAMES MILNE INSTITUTE AT 1930HRS ON
THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2018**

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
Glenn Buchanan (GB) - RFYC
Karen Cunningham (KC) - RSPB
Cllr Claire Feaver (CF) - The Moray Council
Pete Finch (PF) - Findhorn Foundation
Manja Hannon (MaH) - Friends of Findhorn Bay
Richard Somers-Cocks - ornithology
Ian Suttie (IS) - ornithology
Davina Thomas (DT) - Findhorn Village Centre

Apologies: Jen Heatley, Bob Mackay, Simon Paterson, Dr Colin Shedden, Carl Wright

1. Welcome & recent news

RHD welcomed everyone to the meeting. Recent bird highlights had included a Baird's Sandpiper in recent days, along with a Pacific Golden Plover during August.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 7 June 2018

Both Ian Suttie and Bob Mackay's names were omitted from the list of those present. The minutes were accepted otherwise.

Previous actions:

a. Information boards

GB had e-mailed Binsness Estate to re-affirm their acceptance of a sign being placed on their land, though no reply had been forthcoming so will be chased up accordingly. **ACTION GB**

RHD confirmed with RS-C that any information boards that contain wildfowling information do not refer to the now defunct 2017 trial scheme.

b. Tern raft

RHD reported that the raft had been moved further north but may require further re-positioning when put back in place in Spring 2019. No tern species had showed an

interest this year. RSC-C commented that the raft surface may require maintenance also, in order to provide adequate attraction for the birds.

Leading on from this, DT asked if terns still nested within MOD land at Kinloss - RHD replied in the negative, as the bomb dump area had become overgrown since the RAF's withdrawal. CF volunteered to approach the 39 Regiment community liaison officer to discuss a tidying up of the area so as to encourage tern breeding once more. **ACTION CF**

c. FBLNR management plan

After discussion amongst members, RHD determined that a proper review and publication needs to be carried over until the wildfowling issue is resolved. **ITEM CLOSED (until appropriate to action)**

d. Plastic waste

RHD had approached various national-level bodies but has been frustrated in getting any formal response. All agreed that the issue should be closely monitored and feedback on changes to shotgun wadding in particular, as well as retrieval of such post shooting, be sought through committee wildfowling representatives. **ACTION BASC/FNDWA**

e. FBLNR annual audit of accounts

Simon Paterson, via MC, reported that this had been conducted in July. **ITEM CLOSED**

f. Hogweed notification

Following the discussion at the last meeting and RS-C's activity outwith, MC had contacted the Findhorn, Nairn & Lossie Fisheries Trust and in future all issues of such may be notified to them. Point of contact is Vicky Hilton, e-mail sisi@fnlft.org.uk

3. Chairman's report

RHD reported that mediation for wildfowling on the Bay was underway, but the discussions will remain confidential throughout and no discussion will be had outwith the negotiating group. RHD re-iterated that no permit scheme, voluntary or otherwise, exists at the present time. CF asked CB to ensure that council officers are aware of this. **ACTION CB**

RHD then led a discussion on the future of the FBLNR and its management committee, in that with austere measures now firmly in place with The Moray Council and Scottish Natural Heritage, the nature reserve as a body may need to evolve into something along the lines of a trust company or similar.

CB will look into relationship and other aspects from the TMC perspective. **ACTION CB**

WB asked if their already examples of trust running a nature reserve - RHD replied that a good example is the Scottish Wildlife Trust being responsible for the Montrose Basin. Other committee members encouraged dialogue with the Findhorn Villiage Conservation Company. To sum up, RHD encouraged all members to consider what opportunities may exist, and to feed these back to MC in the first instance. **ACTION ALL**

4. Treasurer's update on finances

No expenditure since the last meeting.

5. New matters arising

A96 Dualling Project

RS-C gave a brief overview of the project and its proximity/impact on the FBLNR. Based on the two remaining route proposals, the northernmost option (which runs through predominant farmland to the north of the current A96) does not severely impact upon us, although works would need to be closely monitored. **ITEM CLOSED**

6. Any other business

Nil.

10. Date of next meeting

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

Wednesday 5 December 1930hrs

Dates for the 2019 meetings are as follows, as usual in the JMI at 1930 hrs except the AGM in March which commences at 1900hrs.

Thursday 14 March (AGM and committee meeting)

Thursday 13 June

Thursday 12 September

Thursday 5 December

prepared by Mike Crutch, Secretary FBLNR