

FINDHORN BAY LOCAL NATURE RESERVE (FBLNR)

**MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE JAMES MILNE INSTITUTE AT 1930HRS ON
WEDNESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2018**

Committee members present:

Roy Dennis (RHD) - Chair
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
Dr Colin Shedden (CS) - BASC
Richard Somers-Cocks (RSC) - ornithology
Ian Suttie (IS) - ornithology
Davina Thomas (DT) - Findhorn Village Centre

Apologies: Pete Finch, Manja Hannon, Jen Heatley, Bob Mackay

1. Welcome & recent news

RHD welcomed everyone to the meeting. Recent bird highlights on the Bay had included a Wood Sandpiper and Little Egret, the latter still present. Pink-footed Goose numbers are currently around 12,700 with just over 300 Pintails recorded also. Amongst the wading birds, some 1,200 plus Knot are presently in the Bay.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 20 September 2018

The minutes were accepted.

Previous actions:

a. Information boards

GB had finally made contact with Binsness Estate regarding the erection of the final board, however the response was not favourable and the signage will instead be retained as a reserve. GB had recently surveyed most of current signs and found them to be largely in good order. **ITEM CLOSED**

b. Kinloss Barracks tern breeding habitat

CF had made initial contact with 39 Regiment/Royal Engineers; the site is currently unsuitable but RHD believed a dialogue should be made to discuss and this will be pursued using CF's contacts. **ITEM CARRIED FORWARD**

c. *Plastic waste*

CS had nothing to update at this time, with industry being slow to reduce/remove the use of plastic wads in steel shot cartridges; he observed that inland use (for pheasant shoots, etc.) requires use of alternatives due cattle ingestion concerns but no changes had yet been forthcoming for foreshore use. CF commented that BASC should review its best practice guidelines to include the foreshore plastic contamination aspect and removal of such.

Secretary's Note: in an e-mail ex-meeting, Bob Mackay apprised that his FNDWA members have been instructed to remove shooting litter with emphasis on shell cases and wadding, whether expended by them or others and irrespective of timeframe. In addition, Bob reported that he has so far only found one supplier with suitable (i.e. felt) wadding however these are currently only available for duck shooting; Bob is continuing to progress the issue through appropriate vendors/shooting bodies.

d. Establishment of a Findhorn Bay trust-type organisation

RHD had recently met with TMC managers and legal advisers to discuss what options could exist in order to access funds beyond the limited resources of the Council's provisions for the FBLNR management committee. For example, the ability to recruit and employ a warden or ranger (part-time or full time) for habitat management and educational aspects would be one aim to move towards.

The meeting members raised observations regarding land lease and legal status, though those present did not raise any objections to the discussion being progressed towards a proposal. RHD, using legal counsel and other expertise as required, will generate such for the committee's AGM in March 2019. **ACTION RHD**

3. Chairman's report

RHD stated that the wildfowling mediation is ongoing but still remains confidential at this stage.

4. Treasurer's update on finances

MC reported that Simon Paterson had passed on that no expenditure had occurred since the last meeting.

5. New matters arising

a. *A96 Dualling Project Route Announcement*

RSC reported that Transport Scotland announced the chosen route on 4 December, running north of the current trunk road through the area of Waterford. The Committee agreed that, as a group, official comment as part of the consultation process was not required. **ITEM CLOSED**

b. Saltmarsh access at Kinloss

CB reported that the TMC ranger will be extending the wooden barrier erected near the Kinloss runway lights as vehicles have been continuing to access the area.

6. Any other business

Nil.

7. Date of next meeting

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

Thursday 14 March (AGM at 1900hrs, then standard committee meeting)
Thursday 13 June
Thursday 12 September
Thursday 5 December

prepared by Mike Crutch, Secretary FBLNR