

**FINDHORN BAY LOCAL NATURE RESERVE (FBLNR)  
MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD IN THE JAMES MILNE INSTITUTE AT 1930HRS ON  
THURSDAY 18 APRIL 2019**

Committee members present:

Roy Dennis (RHD) - Chair  
Mo Hyde (MH) - Vice Chair, also representing Findhorn Heritage  
Mike Crutch (MC) - Secretary  
Bill Barber (WB), Findhorn Angling Club  
Glenn Buchanan (GB), Royal Findhorn Yacht Club  
Claire Feaver (CF), The Moray Council  
Pete Finch (PF), Findhorn Foundation  
Manja Hannon (MaH), Friends of Findhorn Bay  
Bob MacKay (RM), FNDWA  
Dr Colin Shedden (CS), BASC  
Richard Somers-Cocks (RSC), nature conservation/ornithology  
Ian Suttie (IS), nature conservation/ornithology  
Davina Thomas (DT), Findhorn Village Centre  
Alan Tissiman (AT), Forres Community Council

Apologies: Colin Bell, Karen Cunningham, Jen Heatley

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

RHD started the standard meeting phase of the evening. Recent bird highlights have included frequent sightings of a Little Egret, while Pink-footed Geese still number some 11,500 leaving the bay after night roosting. Wading bird species have largely dispersed to their breeding grounds, while the next month should see the usual passage of northern sub-species race of Ringed Plover as they migrate north.

### **2. Minutes of meeting held on 5 December 2018**

The minutes were accepted. CS responded to CF's question that BASC 'best practice' for wildfowling did indeed include the need for wildfowlers to remove expended cartridges, litter, etc., when leaving their location. CS also advised that, following discussions a committee last year on the issue of plastic detritus exacerbated by the wadding used in steel shot cartridges, that new versions are now reaching the market (for duck species) and it is very much hoped that shot for geese will also soon adopt the bio-degradable material.

Previous actions:

*a. Kinloss Barracks tern breeding habitat*

RSC will chase up contact with 39 Regiment. **ACTION RSC**

b. *Establishment of a Findhorn Bay trust-type organisation*

RHD stated that this is on hold pending resolution of the wildfowling issue due lack of time and resource.

### 3. Chairman's report

As per AGM held earlier in the evening.

### 4. Treasurer's update on finances

As per AGM held earlier in the evening.

### 5. New matters arising

Nil

### 6. Any other business

- a. MC stated that as it has been some time since the committee's constitution has been reviewed and updated, and while circulate a draft to members ahead of the next meeting in June for ratification then. **ACTION MC**
- b. RM and RSC highlighted recent activities (path erosion, dog walking, etc., on the salt marsh areas of the bay); CF suggested that a press release may be in order, thus raising awareness of habitat concerns and nesting birds. **ACTION MC/RHD**  
*Secretary's note: this was issued subsequent to the meeting to Forres Gazette, etc.*

RSC also commented on public disturbance of the seal haul out area, both on land and in the water, RHD also having had reports of 'power boats' causing issues at the bay mouth. *Secretary's note: post meeting, MC has e-mailed Simon Paterson (as marina rep) to ensure water taxi and other conduits of information can pass on suitable messages to the public.*

### 7. Date of next meeting

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

Thursday 13 June

Thursday 12 September

Thursday 5 December

prepared by Mike Crutch, Secretary FBLNR