

**FINDHORN BAY LOCAL NATURE RESERVE (FBLNR)
MINUTES OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE JAMES MILNE INSTITUTE AT 1930HRS ON
THURSDAY 5 DECEMBER 2019**

Committee members present:

Roy Dennis (RHD) - Chair
Mike Crutch (MC) - Secretary
Bill Barber (WB), Findhorn Angling Club
Glenn Buchanan (GB), Royal Findhorn Yacht Club
Ruth Douglas (RD) - Kinloss Barracks
Claire Feaver (CF), The Moray Council
Pete Finch (PF), Findhorn Ecovillage
Manja Hannon (MH), Friends of Findhorn Bay
Dr Colin Shedden (CS), BASC
Anne Skene (AS), Findhorn & Kinloss Community Council
Ian Suttie (IS), ornithology
Alan Tissiman (AT), Forres Community Council
Davina Thomas (DT), Findhorn village
Carl Wright (CW), Dyke Community Council

Apologies: Colin Bell, Bob Mackay, Simon Paterson, Richard Somers-Cocks, RSPB

1. Welcome & recent news

RHD welcomed everyone present, and started off by recording the committee's sadness at the passing of Mo Hyde, our Vice Chair.

RHD welcomed Ruth Douglas from Kinloss Barracks, attending her first meeting.

RHD invited those members of the public present to raise any questions they had; Lisa Mead asked about the timescales for the various land lease renewals that affect the FBLNR - RHD replied that the first such renewal is in 2020, and The Moray Council (TMC) are already looking into the process.

Christine Hunt commented - for information - on current access issues between the Findhorn Village Conservation Company (FVCC) and TMC. She also requested that following the passing of Mo Hyde, the Findhorn Heritage Centre/FVCC representation on this committee pass formally to the FVCC. See Para 2b later.

2. Minutes of meeting held on 12 September 2019

The minutes were accepted.

Previous actions:

a. Kinloss Barracks tern breeding habitat

MC reported that he and Richard Somers-Cocks had met with Ruth Douglas (RD) of Kinloss Barracks at the end of September and as part of that meeting it was agreed that access Richard will lead an informal conservation survey of the required areas, and ahead of Spring 2020. **ITEM CARRIED FORWARD**

b. Updates to the FBLNR MC Constitution

MC had circulated a second draft to all committee members prior to this meeting of proposed updates to the document, with some feedback received. The meeting discussed the content and moved to agree upon the membership of the Management Committee, as follows:

Findhorn & Kinloss Community Council - one representative (voting)
Findhorn village - one rep (voting)
Kinloss village - one rep (voting)
Findhorn Fairway Committee - one rep (voting)
Findhorn Marina - one rep (voting)
BASC - one rep (voting)
FNDWA - one rep (voting)
Conservation - one rep (voting)
Moray & Nairn Bird club - one rep (voting)
Findhorn Eco-village (previously Findhorn Foundation) - one rep (voting)
Findhorn Village Conservation Company (replacing Findhorn Heritage Centre) - one rep (voting)
Forres Community Council - one rep (voting)
Friends of Findhorn Bay - one rep (voting)
Royal Findhorn Yacht Club - one rep (voting)
RSPB - one rep (voting)
SNH (NatureScot from 2020) - one rep (non-voting)
HIE - one rep (non-voting)
MOD/Kinloss Barracks - one rep (voting)
Dyke Community Council - one rep (voting)

The only other major change was the formal adoption of two Management Committee meetings per annum. The meeting were in agreement with all of the above, with MC asking for formal acceptance to take the Constitution document back to Colin Bell at TMC for sign-off. DT proposed, GB seconded. **ITEM CARRIED FORWARD**

c. Vegetation around the bird hide

RD reported that 39 Regiment, Royal Engineers plus the RAF and Balfour Beatty/Amey contractors had conducted widespread clearing around the bird hide and old aircraft viewing areas in preparation of increased usage during RAF Lossiemouth 'bolt hole' operations at Kinloss during 2020.

3. Chairman's report

RHD gave a brief overview of Osprey activity in and around the Bay in 2019 - the last sighting was recorded on 23 September, and the Bay supported eleven breeding pairs this year. RHD also described recent work by the Findhorn, Nairn & Lossie Fisheries Trust and their initial findings from data provided by data tagged salmon smolts.

RHD reported that he arranged with Simon Paterson to have the tern raft removed from the bay; Simon had since updated via e-mail that it will be disassembled and removed this coming week.

Finally, RHD expressed his continued disappointment with the issues surrounding wildfowling.

4. Treasurer's update on finances

Simon Paterson, via e-mail, had stated that no changes had been made to the committee's finances.

5. New matters arising

a. Vice Chair appointment

RHD proposed Ian Suttie to the position, seconded by DT.

b. Meeting Time for 2020

MC put forward that, alongside a the Constitution change to two meetings per year, members consider a timing change to daytime to reflect the official attendees, flexible working or retired nature of the majority of members; the move would be key to gaining attendance by the likes of RSPB and SNH. After discussion, it was agreed to trial an evening meeting for the AGM/first meeting of 2020, and a daytime timing for the second meeting.

6. Any other business

None.

7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting, incorporating the AGM, will take place on Thursday 24 March 2020 in the JMI at 1900hrs. The other 2020 meeting is scheduled for Thursday 1 October, in the JMI at 1400hrs.

prepared by Mike Crutch, Secretary FBLNR