

**Falkland Stewardship Trust  
Minutes of Meeting of Trustees  
Friday, 15 April 2011 in the Stables Workshop, Falkland Estate**

Present: David Corner (Chair), Patrick Laughlin

In Attendance: Neil Anderson, Tess Darwin, Helen Lawrenson, Amelia Stevenson (Item 11), Ninian Stuart (Item 12), Linda Akeroyd (Scribe)

**1 Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies were received from Peter Burman, Marietta Crichton Stuart, John Smith and Robert Steedman

**2 Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday, 19 January 2011**

These were accepted as a true record on the basis of the following amendments:

- 5(a), second bullet point - should read Fife Environment Trust
- 5(c), first bullet point - delete "We do not intend to be Fife's Year of Culture every year"
- 5(d) should read Esmée

**3 Matters Arising**

- **Item 9 - Work Plan for 2010/11** - HL confirmed that these were now in place.
- **Stewardship Lecture** - The Chair thanked all who had contributed to a successful event. Suggestions as to names and dates for next year were invited.
- **General Update** - HL and TD were thanked for all of their work in organising the events planned for this year.
- **Staffing** – HL and TD were asked to detail, for the next meeting, the full extent of what it is that volunteers do for us. Members were asked to identify a volunteer who might become an additional member of the Board.
- DC asked that, Paper A (attached as Annex A) and its successors should be attached to the minutes to supplement information recorded on a range of agenda items.

**4 Stables Development Update**

HL informed members that an application for a building warrant would be submitted this week. HL advised that there was to be a meeting with the tenants that evening with storage and use of the courtyard being the main issues. It was recognised that funds raised are currently £10,000 light. DC undertook to secure guaranteed funding from the appropriate Drumdreel fund in case the shortfall is not met by success in relation to one outstanding grant application or through efficiency savings.

**5 Memorial Chapel Update**

It was indicated that Fife Environment Trust wants confirmation of listed building consent and that, since this has not yet been granted, the start-date is likely to be delayed. It was noted that all funding is now in place for this project.

**6 Woodland Learning Programme**

TD went through the programme with members and advised that staffing was in place for this ambitious programme.

**Falkland Stewardship Trust  
Minutes of Meeting of Trustees  
Friday, 15 April 2011 in the Stables Workshop, Falkland Estate**

**7 Big Tent 2012**

It was recognised again that we need to think about the programme, content and ethos. It was noted that the Climate Challenge application for funding for infrastructure had been unsuccessful. All agreed that the festival should not be as big as 2010 and run over two days rather than three. It was suggested that an Advisory Board be created representing the entire organisation and that NA and DC should raise this issue at the next Chairs meeting.

**8 One Planet Food**

No update.

**9 Landscape**

TD informed Trustees that a request had been received to put art into the landscape. After discussion, it was decided that TD and NS should prepare a paper for the Board upon the basis that, if the HLF bid were successful, the project would have its own staff.

**10 Finance Report**

AS updated members on the position for the year ending 31 March 2011 and produced a budget for 2011/2012. It was agreed that the value of volunteers should be shown in appropriate contexts and that DC should, at the forthcoming Chairs meeting, seek early clarity regarding the prospect of the £50,000 donation required.

**11 Future's Process**

NS updated on the future's process.

**12 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Friday, 15 July 2011 at 10.00am. PL agreed to chair the meeting.

David Corner

**Falkland Stewardship Trust****Paper A - 15 April 2011****Matters Arising**

The Stewardship Lecture was very well received and over-subscribed (we were fully booked several days in advance). Thanks should be recorded to our chefs for the night (Wendy Gudmundsson, student Louise Barclay and Amelia Stevenson), the House of Falkland management for their use of the building, Nigel Lowthrop for an informative evening's talk and our sponsors the Forestry Commission. We surveyed everyone who attended and the feedback has been positive.

**General Update**

Since trustees last met, staff have been busy both planning and implementing the programme for 2011. The Snowdrops Festival saw over 220 primary school children come to the Stables Workshop to take part in craft workshops and woodland trails. Feedback from teachers has been positive. Key to success has been the provision of funding to help with school buses. Without this contribution, the schools would not have been able to attend. We are pleased to advise trustees we have secured funding for school groups to visit in both the autumn and the Snowdrops Festival in 2012.

Even without Big Tent we have a busy programme of events planned for 2011. These include:

- Summer Clubs for children – 2 weeks of outdoor activities for children aged 7 to 12
- Summer School – 3 day summer school focusing on traditional skills (July)
- Autumn Hut Building course
- Autumn Harvest programme

Funding from Community Wildlife and the International Year of Forestry has been secured to ensure many of these events take place. The summer club for children and the summer school will both be self-financing.

**Staffing**

As trustees were notified in confidence in the December meeting, with no Big Tent in 2011, the need for an Events Director was considered obsolete. It was therefore our sad duty to initiate a redundancy notice to Lesley McLaren who left Falkland Stewardship Trust at the end of January. We wish Lesley well with her future employment.

Tess Darwin is to continue as our Woodland Learning Manager for at least another 12 months as funding has been secured from Leader and SNH. We had hoped to secure two years of funding but it was not possible at this point (we will be reapplying in the Autumn). Tess will be going part time (3.5 days per week) from May and Wendy Gudmundsson will be assisting Tess with some aspects of the programme delivery (i.e. the other 1.5 days).

We had hoped to continue Wendy's position as Food Engagement Officer post 31 March when our funding from the Climate Challenge Fund came to an end but sadly our new grant application to CCF was not successful.

Neil Anderson will continue as Transition Steward on a part time basis (3 days per week) until at least September 2012 (this has been confirmed by Falkland Estate Trust).

We are waiting to hear the outcome of a funding decision for a Ranger's post.

We are increasingly getting enquiries for volunteer work at Falkland Centre for Stewardship. This has led to the formation of a conservation group who are meeting once a week and are led by our volunteer Sam who has been with us since September.

**Falkland Stewardship Trust****Paper A - 15 April 2011**

Neil has been working across FST and Falkland Estate Trust to ensure that terms and conditions are uniform across the two organisations.

Thanks to government funding, Helen and Tess are being trained in design and website management. We hope this will allow for more professional in-house design at a reduced cost. Tess will be visiting Romania in June as part of a forestry initiative (trip if fully funded). We are also providing first aid training for Sam.

**Stables Development – Update**

Some positive news at last, we secured £35,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and £9,030 from Leader for the Stables development. The total secured for the project is now at £78,530.

As Trustees may recall from the previous meeting, the total project costs were approximately £97,030. Given that we were resubmitting a reduced grant request to HLF (as per their advice), we have scaled some of the work back but there is still a funding gap of approximately £10,000. Whilst we still have one funding application still to hear from (Garfield Weston), we may be faced with a funding shortfall and we would like Trustees to consider securing the balance from "in-house" sources.

Simpson and Brown have been appointed architects for the project and are now looking to secure detailed tenders and drawing up a timescale for the works that will take account of commitments that we already have for the Stables Workshop.

The Stables' tenants have been advised by letter of the potential changes to the Stables (though at the time of writing to them the HLF funding had not been secured). Amelia and Helen are meeting with the tenants on the evening of Friday 15 April 2011 to update on the developments.

**Memorial Chapel**

Some more positive funding news, the Pilgrim Trust has confirmed a grant of £7,500 toward the Memorial Chapel repairs. This now leaves a funding gap of approximately £13,000 and as Trustees noted in the previous meeting, the balance was to be secured from the "Drumdreel money".

Arc Architects have been appointed as architects for the project and we are working towards a start day in early summer.

**Big Tent**

More funding news, Fife Council has confirmed support for a Big Tent in 2012 of up to £19,000 with a further grant of £10,000 in 2014. They have said that there will be no further funding for Big Tent after this. At the last meeting of Trustees we agreed to spend time looking at the programme, ethos and content of Big Tent 2012.

**One Planet Food**

No updates.

**HLF Landscape Partnership Bid**

A bid for the HLF Landscape Partnership was submitted on 28 February 2011. The partners in the bid include Falkland Stewardship Trust, Fife Coast and Countryside Trust (lead partner), Markinch Heritage Group, Kinross Heritage Trust and Fife Council.

This is an ambitious and wide-ranging bid. The "delivery phase" is costed at £2.4m and the

## Falkland Stewardship Trust

## Paper A - 15 April 2011

earlier development phase is costed at £162,000. The bulk of this funding will be requested from the Heritage Lottery Fund though a fundraising strategy will be required to raise the balance.

Timetable for the bid:

- 26 April 2011 – meeting with HLF officers who will be visiting the area.
- July 2011 – decision by HLF to award development funding and a Stage One Pass
- July 2011 + 18 months (maximum) – bid is worked up
- Stage Two bid submitted.
- 3 year programme.

Below is a summary of the scheme and its priorities:

Incorporating Scotland's first regional park, the Living Lomonds landscape area is a unique upland formation, which can be viewed from over many miles from the Lothians to Perthshire and the Angus Hills. There is a wealth of important archaeological features and significant natural heritage sites and habitats. The Lomonds represent one of the last (largely) untapped unimproved upland landscapes in SE Scotland with some of the oldest examples of small scale mining, some of the best examples of crinoid fossils, some Pictish carved stones and the remnants of a unique runrig field system.

Royal history and folklore surrounds the Lomond Hills with some important remnants of the medieval hunting park recently uncovered. With four designed landscapes within the scheme, a Royal Palace and a Neolithic henge, the built heritage is strongly represented in this scheme. In terms of the natural heritage, the scheme reaches from Loch Leven, an area rich in biodiversity to an extensive area of species-rich upland pasture at Craigmead Meadows.

Set between the important pilgrim sites of St Andrew and Dunfermline, there are a number of important pilgrim sites and old routes including Scotlandwell where the Red Friars established a holy well in 1250.

Our vision for this scheme is to reconnect people with the living legacy of the Lomond Hills by:

- 1 Bringing people to the hills.
- 2 Revealing and reviving our lost heritage in the hills.
- 3 Celebrating and sustaining all the good things that come from the hills.

Through the Lomond Hills Landscape Partnership we intend to:

- Conserve and restore key historic landscape features and traditional routes that reconnect people and nature over the Lomond Hills;
- Conserve and improve the landscape biodiversity of the Lomond Hills and in particular, giving priority to those species and/or habitats, which are identified in the Local and National Biodiversity Action Plans
- Engage and enrich communities on all sides of the Lomond Hills by increasing access, awareness and enjoyment of the heritage of the Lomond Hills.

**Falkland Stewardship Trust**

**Paper A - 15 April 2011**

- Support and enable local people including farmers, foresters, foragers and craftsmen to teach and learn traditional skills and enhance biodiversity.
- Create and support volunteering, training and employment opportunities for local people, including the socially excluded, to be involved in heritage conservation from drystone walls to woodland restoration and management.
- Conserve, and where possible, enhance the geodiversity and archaeological heritage of the Lomond Hills
- Enable and encourage all people, visitors and residents alike, to enjoy, appreciate, understand and learn about the unique qualities of the Lomond Hills
- Ensure that the landscape of the Lomond Hills is managed in an economically and environmentally sustainable manner, which recognises both the short and long-term implications of our actions and their potential consequences.