

Kinghorn Loch Users Group.

Minutes of the Meeting held Monday 1st February 2010 at 7.30 pm at Craigencaft Cottage

Present: Marilyn Edwards (Secretary), Fraser Ballantyne, (Community Council) Margaret Kinninmonth (Treasurer), Alan Henderson (Canoe Club) Ron Edwards (Chairperson) Richard Neil, (Craigencaft Farm) Saul Gardiner (SCG) Ian Bell (Sailing Club) Stephanie Little Develop

Apologies - Paul McLaren, Elinor Chalmers

1 Progress on Local Nature Reserve Status for Kinghorn Loch

Stephanie Little from Development Services FC was present to update the meeting. She said that the area to be considered for an LNR would need to be established and a long term management strategy put in place. At the moment the area proposed is that identified in the Local Plan. She had contacted Community Services for help to look after the LNR but they have no resources for this. The Ranger Service has in the past assisted with the management of LNRs but the service, which now comes under Fife Coast and Countryside Trust, has recently had cuts and would have to be approached separately by the group to see if they would be involved..

Kinghorn Loch Local Nature Reserve Status was put into the 2003 Local Plan and this has been carried forward into the new Local Plan for the designation to be fulfilled. KLUG has carried out projects to improve water quality, manage the blue/green algae, and stop bank erosion. This had resulted in the loch making a tremendous recovery over the last ten years. The east bank requires some work and attention but also provided a good area of parking for the loch. The chairman agreed to get back in touch with Alcan to confirm that the loch and wetlands should be considered for LNR status. The secretary would get back in touch with the land owner for the east bank to ask if this can be considered for inclusion.

The advantages of establishing a Local Nature Reserve were more control, fishing and conservation areas and greater access to obtaining funds. As the land is already managed and The Ecology Centre has a well established educational interest it should not be too big a problem.

The group agreed in principle to going forward as the management group for the LNR. KLUG could establish a management plan in consultation with Fife Council. Stephanie said that she would look up some draft management plan formats for Local Nature Reserves and speak to Law and Administration about the assets and liability plan. Designation cannot be taken forward without the agreement of all the landowners.

2 Minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes were proposed by Fraser Ballantyne and seconded by Richard Neil

3 Matters Arising.

- a) The wood that had sprung half way along the front grass at the jetty was still being considered for the best option on how to sort the problem.
- b) Marley tubing – Secretary had not received a reply from the companies contacted locally. The chairman had recently contacted The Marley Group for a quotation on the cost for some new tubing. Once estimates were established KLUG could consider applying for another environmental grant for replacement rafts and a maintenance boat for the loch. The chair would report back to the next meeting.
- c) Elinor had sent details of maintenance boat options and the Waterwitch seemed a possible option but the group would need to decide when cost of tubing is known then a grant for both together can be sought. Possible funders were Scottish Communities Foundation, Common Good and Awards for All.

4. Forthcoming Events

- a) A "Come and Try" day was agreed for Saturday 1st May. The secretary would ask The Ecology Centre and SCI if they want to have displays or other activities. KLUG would consider running a barbecue as a fundraiser at the event.
- b) KLUG is hoping to have a stand at the Beveridge Park Festival this year, this will be held during the first week in July.

c)The Toll Centre in Burntisland are hoping to organize a festival over the summer and have asked if they can link with activities on Kinghorn Loch. The contact is Andrew Barker for more information.

5. Correspondence.

- The secretary had got Keep Scotland Beautiful information on National Spring Clean 2010. It was agreed that the East bank needed a cleanup. Ron would contact Environmental Services to ask for an uplift of dumped rubbish and the secretary would contact The Ecology Centre and SCI about linking with them to organise a litter collection on the east bank.
- Information on Celebrating Fife 2010, groups could apply for small grants up to £2000 to help fund a new event this year. Secretary has contact and application forms.
- Cherry Williams – Entrust LCF Forum
- Email from John Hughes, the Ecology Centre, to say that the recent cold weather had resulted in the loch freezing over and some people had been seen walking out on the ice. The police had visited to ask if someone would be responsible for putting up danger warning signs on such occasions. The matter had been referred to Craigencait Farm and KLUG could assist if needed.

4 Maintenance of the Loch

Planting to prevent bank erosion was discussed. It was suggested that iris and bulrushes could be nurtured in areas where they grow well, and then transplanted to areas where new growth is needed. There were areas on the east bank where bank erosion is apparent and planting could be considered.

5 New Project Ideas

- a) John Hughes had sent a detailed email about the new proposed compost toilet facility for Recreational Groups and visitors to the loch. The proposed location is near to The Earthship. The toilet will have disabled access and will be installed by a professional company.
- b) A new information board proposal was put on hold while other ideas were explored..

6 Any Other Business.

The email from Paul said that due to family commitment he could not manage a Monday meeting time but wished to stay in touch. It was agreed to contact Paul to see if he could manage a Wednesday evening for the next KLUG meeting. The secretary would let everyone know the outcome

Date of next meeting to be decided 15th or 17th March 2010