

Kinghorn Loch Users Group.

Minutes of the Meeting held Monday 2nd November 2009 at 7.30 pm at Craigencalt Cottage

Present: Marilyn Edwards (Secretary), Fraser Ballantyne, (Community Council) Margaret Kinninmonth (Treasurer), Alan Henderson, Elinor Chalmers (Canoe Club) Ron Edwards (Chairperson), Richard Neil, (Craigencalt Farm) Ruth Wellenska (Sailing Club)

Apologies -, Roy Henderson, Ronny Duncan, Saul Gardiner, Paul McLaren

1 Progress on Local Nature Reserve Status for Kinghorn Loch

Stephanie Little from Development Services FC was on sick leave, feedback was not available. The Chairman had contacted Ken Evans (Rio Tinto – Alcan) concerning progressing LNR status for land around the loch owned by the company. Ultimately a wildlife corridor of land stretching from the head of the loch over the Binn remediated area could be envisaged. However the remediated land may be considered for further extraction of minerals in the future so Alcan wanted only the wooded wetlands at the head of the loch to be considered in a future LNR. The chairman would contact Ken again to ask if he would be agreeable to look at a revised area. Bob Cooper and James Hazle were the two on site contacts now.

The owners of Craigencalt Farm were in favour of LNR status and had previously met with a representative from Fife Council to discuss proposals in 2007

The secretary had prepared a letter to send to Wilson Graham, Kinghorn Developments, the current owner of the land on the east side of the loch. It was agreed to send the letter and information about LNR status to him for his consideration. A question was asked about the proposed woodland cemetery land near the east side of the loch and if this would be included in a LNR. The chairman said that he would contact Community Services to ask how the project was progressing.

A new management plan would need to be set up and agreements reached with the parties involved.. It was hoped that Stephanie would be able to advise with this.

2 Minutes from the previous meeting

The minutes were proposed by Fraser Ballantyne and seconded by Alan Henderson

3 Matters Arising.

- a) It was noted that one piece of wood had sprung half way along the front grass at the jetty. Ruth said that the Sailing Club would see about mending it.
- b) Marley tubing – Secretary is waiting to hear back from local companies about new tube lengths. It was noted that damage to some rafts may require them to be renewed completely in which case funding would need to be obtained to carry out the work.
- c) Richard reported that the Scottish Carp Group had sent lease agreement for approval. Both parties would need to agree.
- d) There was discussion about purchasing an all purpose maintenance boat. Requirements covered weed collection, putting out barley straw, stable to move around, act as a safety boat, take 3 -4 people and be environmentally related. The chair asked that the sailing club and Canoe club representatives study the brochures to come back with recommendations.

4 Forthcoming Events

The chairman asked if the group might consider participating in the Beveridge Park Festival held in early July each year. It was agreed for members to consider this and decide at the next meeting. Also Celebrating Fife 2010 was considering small grants for Project Initiatives if anyone could think of a new good idea to launch in the new year.

5 Correspondence.

- Email from Cherry Williams about Landfill Communities Forum and LCF Communications Working group and Entrust Training Days 2009/2010
- Notification of Land Tax Legislation Amendment from 1st October 2009
- FET Newsletter, it was agreed to pass on future ones electronically.

- Stewart Bonar Fife Ranger, new email address
Stewart.bonar@fifecountryside.co.uk

6 Maintenance of the Loch

Five bales of barley straw had been delivered from Banchory Farm and the Sailing Club had distributed it on the rafts out on the loch. Thanks were recorded to them for doing this. Elinor reported that there was weed piled on the grass at the jetty. This would damage the grass if left for a long time. It transpired that the weed was left for the allotment gardeners but when it was not collected Ronny Duncan kindly removed it.

Planting to prevent bank erosion was left over to next meeting. It was agreed to leave the planting suggestions from Saul until he was at a KLUG meeting.

7 New Project Ideas

- a) Lack of good toilet facilities for Recreational Groups and visitors to the loch.

It was agreed that this should be a priority for project initiatives if possible. The secretary had written to the Board of the Ecology Centre to ask their intentions about the new toilet planning permission granted some while ago. The reply said that it is not intended to progress the toilets in their present location. Instead the establishment of composting toilets was being investigated on site to improve access for volunteers, school groups and visitors. The secretary had got back to Ronnie Mackie to ask if the Ecology centre would give written permission for KLUG to go ahead to progress the new toilets on the site of the present ones, but it was understood this would have to be a Board decision. The secretary would ask where the new composting toilets would be sited.

- b) A new information board could be situated on land at Craigencait Farm. This project was on hold while other recent ideas were investigated.

8 Any Other Business.

It was agreed that KLUG would not express a view on the new Ecology Centre Planning Application on the east bank of the loch, as the Ecology Centre is a member of the group.

Date of next meeting Monday 11th January 2010 at 7.30pm