

Kinghorn Loch Users Group.

Minutes of the Meeting held Monday 14th September 2009 at 7.30 pm at Craigencalt Cottage

1. **Present:** Marilyn Edwards (Secretary), Fraser Ballantyne, (Community Council) Margaret Kinninmonth (Treasurer), Alan Henderson, (Canoe Club) Ron Edwards (Chairperson), Richard Neil, (Craigencalt Farm) Ronny Duncan (Sailing Club)
Apologies - Elinor Chalmers, Roy Henderson, John Hughes Alistair Morrison, Saul Gardiner, Paul McLaren

Update on Kinghorn Loch Local Nature Reserve Status

Stephanie Little from Development Services FC was in attendance at the meeting. She explained that she was new in her post, and was keen to collate information on progress with acquiring Local Nature Reserve Status for Kinghorn Loch, since Allan Brown FC had left. Members present introduced themselves and Stephanie was filled in on the history of the group, its remit, who had representation and the organisations which assisted it.

The three landowners surrounding the loch were, Craigencalt Farm who had already given written agreement that they supported a Local Nature Reserve, Kinghorn Developments who own the east side of the loch, and Rio Tinto Alcan who own the wetlands area at the head of the loch. Other organisations involved were Fife Council, who maintained the sluice area and the Ecology Centre who leased land from Craigencalt Farm and had also given their written agreement of support. Andrew Ferguson FC was the best person to contact on community rights on the loch itself.

The earlier plans had looked at creating an LNR with a green corridor through to The Binn, it may be more practical to look at an LNR limiting the land owned by Rio Tinto Alcan or even not including it altogether. Stephanie would look at a new plan with these options. The chairman offered to contact Ken Evans (Rio Tinto Alcan) to find out the present position. The secretary offered to get in touch with Kinghorn Developments to ask if they would consider an LNR proposal.

A character map of land uses for the whole area was available and lists of birds that had been sighted. Local Nature Reserve Status would require support from Scottish Natural Heritage and an assessment of a variety of species and wild life would need to be undertaken. The chairman said that money had been set aside in the locality budget for this purpose and he would enquire about it.

A management plan would also need to be agreed. It was a helpful talk and the group thanked Stephanie for her time.

2. **Minutes from the previous meeting.**

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

3. **Matters Arising.**

- a) Sailing Club had completed the wooden facing board around the jetty and the bill had been submitted to the Treasurer and the total paid. .
- b) Marley tubing – Secretary is still to contact local companies about new tube lengths.
- c) Richard reported that the SCG agreement was still ongoing and agreement was with both parties at present.
- d) It was agreed to leave the planting suggestions from Saul until he was at a KLUG meeting. Richard added that the little pool just below the water wheel had been cleaned out and drains plugged. New planting would be put in once ducks had finished nesting.
- e) Elinor had sent in prices of Dorrie boats to the chairman, these ranged about £2,800, Ronny Duncan said that he would have a look around for possible maintenance boat too.

Forth Coming Events

- Balwearie Festival with Youth Canoeing Activities on the loch. John Hughes has said that he would have concrete blocks removed off grass area.

4. Correspondence.

- Email – from Brian Shand, to say that he would be the new contact for Community Services FC. He added that there were issues around ownership and maintenance costs on the east bank of the loch at this time of continual cutbacks. It was agreed to contact Brian and remind him that the sluice and maintenance of the lifebelts is Fife Council's responsibility. Also the picnic area and car park has been maintained by Fife Council for over thirty years. It is a much used public area.
- Email from Pete Farrell, FC Liaison Officer for Travelling Folk saying that the owner was willing to help with the problems with travelers camping on the east side of the loch and erect a barrier for caravans.
- The Kinghorn in Bloom Group were looking for an old boat to plant anyone able to help please contact Suzanne Gilfeather, sec has her email.

5. Maintenance of the Loch

The Institute of Hydrology, Wallingford, had indicated that 2.5gms of barley straw was required per square litre of water to treat blue/green algae in the loch. Blanket weed was much less sensitive. The best way of stopping the nutrients from blanket weed was to haul it out. 5 bales of straw were coming from Banchory Farm and these would be put out on rafts in the Autumn

6. New Project Ideas

- a) It was brought to the attention of the meeting that the biggest priority for the recreational groups using the loch was the gross lack of good toilet facilities and this hampered their ability to host events with other clubs. This was more urgent than any other project in the planning and KLUG was asked to consider it as a priority too. It was known that the Ecology Centre had planning permission for new toilets but it was not known if or when the work for the upgrade would take place. The Sailing Club and Canoe Club both wish to remain at their present location and not move if the Ecology Centre did go ahead with a new build on the east side of the loch. They have indicated this to the Ecology Centre management. The secretary would write to the Board of the Ecology Centre to ask their intentions about the toilets
- b) The chairman showed around photographs of where a possible new information board could be situated on land at Craigencait Farm. He showed a shelter drawing 4.5 metres in length with dry stone walling either side. It was agreed to make the toilet upgrade a priority for the moment but to do both would be lovely.

7. Any Other Business.

None

Date of next meeting Monday 2nd November 2009 at 7.30pm