

Kinghorn Loch Users Group.

Minutes of the Meeting held Monday 20th September 2010 at 7.30 pm at Craigencait Cottage

1. **Present:** Marilyn Edwards (Secretary), Fraser Ballantyne, (Community Council) Margaret Kinninmonth (Treasurer), Paul McLaren, SCG, Elinor Chalmers (Canoe Club) Ron Edwards (Chairperson) Richard Neil, Diana Neil (Craigencait Farm)
2. **Apologies** Saul Gardiner, Alan Henderson,, Alistair Morrison, John Hughes
3. **Minutes from the previous meeting**
The minutes proposed by Elinor Chalmers and seconded by Fraser Ballantyne
4. **Matters Arising.**
 - a) Some changes to contact details for the parties involved with KLUG were noted.
 - Brian Shand, Community Services Fife Council is now Scott Clelland
 - Ronny Duncan, Sailing Club is now Ruth Wellenski
 - Environmental Health to be called on if required
 - b) Some Plaswood boards at the jetty are still not anchored properly. Alan had applied some heavier screws but this was not successful. Weather temperature affects them. Some leftover boards were in the lochside shed and these could be used to drill into and find out what might work.
 - c) Four barley straw bales have been donated from Banchory Farm and with the one remaining made five to go out on the rafts. It was suggested that the straw be put out in February which would give time for the rafts to be sorted.
 - d) The sluice at the road side is a dangerous point for vehicles to enter or exit as the road is narrow with poor visibility a bollard would prevent access. The chairman was still to follow this matter up with Fife Council.
 - e) Richard reported that the agreement for the SCG fishermen was near to being signed.
 - f) It was noted that there was a slight increase in litter around the jetty area but the east bank of the loch is remaining quite tidy.
 - g) It was agreed to invite Rena Wallace and Danny along to a KLUG meeting to discuss the bird life and an island nesting area for the swans. Rena is on holiday at present so they will be invited to a future meeting.
5. **Correspondence**
Entrust – notice of training schemes based in England
6. **Survey of the loch**
Edinburgh University had carried out a survey on the loch in early August. The survey included weeds, birdlife, water quality and sediment. The contaminated chemical deposits now formed a narrow layer within the sediments and had recovered well indicating a healthy organic layer is continuing to form. There was a drop of 6 -8 degrees and less oxygen below the thermocline in the middle of the loch. The conclusion is that the loch is now in a very healthy state. Carp are well suited to these loch conditions and there are lots of leaches and tiny snails. Surprisingly some plant species are typical of low phosphate conditions. The water is naturally high in nitrate so low phosphate should control the algae. It is possible the barley straw produces active organic matter when it rots and keeps algae down by absorbing nutrients. The good weed growth may mean that we may not always need to put in barley straw.
7. **Local Nature Reserve**
The chairman was still awaiting a response from Ken Evans (Alcan) who had been given a letter and information about establishing a Local Nature Reserve. The discussion that followed suggested applying a more positive approach to the subject. It was agreed to make up a draft management plan to put to Alcan and the landowners to see if this could help to progress the idea further. KLUG has sample guidelines for setting up and managing LNR's. Ron said that he would study these and Elinor and Paul offered to come on a working group to form the draft management plan. A provisional date to look at this idea was Monday 4th October.

8 Projects

Proposal for funding is nearly complete. Ron to contact Alan to find prize of a cutting attachment for a maintenance boat then a proposal for funding can be put together.

It was discussed that one of the rafts might be removed and materials like earth, grass, straw and polyprop grass used to make it into an island for safe bird nesting. It was agreed to explore this idea.

It was agreed to form an action group for mending the jetty and other maintenance requirements.

9. Any Other Business.

The problem of controlling weed growth was discussed as this had been excessive in June and July resulting in canoeing and fishing being affected. The cutters purchased on ebay gave limited success as they got caught up easily and the weed had to be released. The work group will look at how the cutters could be set up for best use.

Date of next meeting 25th October 2010