

**BAILIES OF BENNACHIE COUNCIL MEETING
BENNACHIE CENTRE
Mon 25 Apr 2016 19h00-21h25
MINUTES**

Council members present: Jackie Cumberbirch (Snr.Bailie & Chair), Ann Baillie (Publications & Planning Applications), Brian Cornock (Mins), Barry Foster, Harry Leil (Workparties & Hill Warden Coord.), Jill Matthews, Iain Ralston, Sue Taylor, Andrew Wainwright
Guests present: Antoine Le Pretre (FCS), Linda Bain & Margaret Garden ("Save Bennachie" Group)

WELCOME & APOLOGIES

- JC welcomed attendees, apologies received from Angela Groat, Colin Shepherd, Rosemary Sievewright, Donna Taylor
- agenda for meeting to be: review of FCS Land Mgt Plan, update from the Save Bennachie Group, followed by other Bailies business as time would allow

REVIEW OF FCS LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BENNACHIE

- proposed FCS Land Management Plan for Bennachie was reviewed by Antoine Le Pretre, with information and maps as referenced and available online from here:
<http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/managing/plans-and-strategies/land-management-plans/1492-bennachie>
<http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk/news-releases/1493-give-your-views-on-bennachie-s-future>
- plan is intended to cover the next 10yrs and views from the public are being sought before Fri 13 May 2016
- the plan for Bennachie has a recreational rather than economic bias, eg with areas of natural regeneration after clear-felling, landscaping considerations, maintaining high environmental value/biodiversity etc
- near term priorities include harvesting diseased lodgepole pine while its timber still has some value
- some discussion about difficulty/economics of minimising obtrusiveness of tree stumps and brash after clear-felling to maintain reasonable accessibility for walkers
- on any replanting, clearance will be left around archaeological features, eg 20m to scheduled monuments and 8m to non-scheduled
- currently only 3% broadleaf but aim to reach 8% in 50yrs (national target is 20%)
- JC thanked Antoine for his presentation and he left the meeting at 19h56
- some discussion about leaving more forest to natural processes and reducing the active "management"
- JC offered to coordinate responses from Bailies re FCS plan, those interested to provide feedback to JC by 05 May 2016 and she will circulate for comments and then submit to FCS on 15 May

UPDATE FROM "SAVE BENNACHIE" GROUP

- Margaret Garden gave an update on work being done by the "Save Bennachie" Group
- have submitted prelim report to various Ministers/MSPs, no replies yet, will chase up after the elections on 05 May
- have produced 5000 flyers/postcards and distributed
- 500 registrations on website for newsletter and 2027 facebook "likes" so far, also thanks to DT for sharing posts
- further website blog or facebook posts are welcome
- next newsletter soon
- alliance campaign is growing (groups like Bailies, NE Mtn Trust etc)
- will ask members to support candidacy of Bennachie for Special Landscape Area (SLA) status
- don't know position being taken by Inverurie Business Assoc re A96 route
- JM discussed possibility of grant from Lottery to get wildlife camera and to train observers, will wait until Bailies are a SCIO, maybe in Sept, this is to get wildlife records for the potential road corridor
- AW mentioned getting general support from Provost & Cllr Lonchay on letter he wrote advocating preference for Old Meldrum/Newmachar route and minimisation of expenditure on the Bennachie route(s)
- however, choice of route rests with Transport Scotland and ultimately is a Ministerial decision

SSE PYLONS

- JC said SSE proposed route for new pylons is now to South side of Bennachie
- meeting due on 27 Apr in Monymusk Hall about the new line of SSE pylons, some Bailies will attend
- see <http://www.clampa.org/uncategorized/hello-world/>
- "milestone date" for objections to SSE is 06 May
- JC will feedback a proposed response from Bailies

CORNABO WIND TURBINES

- JC said she had heard these wind turbines are "back on the agenda"

- AB said she would investigate whether this is true

SPECIAL LANDSCAPES AREA

- MG & AW queried the status of the proposal to make Bennachie a Special Landscapes Area
- JC said that she believed that the proposal will now go ahead and that it just has to be "rubber stamped"
- there have effectively been 3 consultations on this
- comments can still be made up to 13 May to JC and she will collate and pass them on
- likely to be the Autumn before final approval

MG & LB left the meeting at this time 20h57

SENIOR BAILIE'S UPDATE (JC)

Resignation

- JC reported that John Nicol has resigned from the Bailies Council and he preferred this to be with immediate effect
- JC will write to thank him for the work and time he has spent helping the Bailies over many years
- JN will remain on Bennachie Centre Trust but Bailies will need new rep for Trust meetings (usually 2 per year)

Colony Leaflets

- Barry & Chris (& sister Doreen) Foster made trial run with new Colony Leaflet to check its applicability
- list of potential improvements given to JC, finger posts were found to be helpful
- Council agreed to fund 5000 new leaflets at an expected cost of £389

Bailies PO Box

- Council agreed that the bailies should continue to fund their current PO box at an expected charge of £312 per year

Toilets at Rowantree

- have been problems with forced entry and burst pipe, discussions are in progress between Aberdeenshire Council & the Rangers re cleaning regime and possible help from volunteers

Marketing

- new logo liked but the "bump" on the foremost hill generally thought to be too prominent
- new group proposed to look into marketing/logo etc and make suggestions to Council, eg potentially comprising Donna Taylor, Sue Taylor & Steve Wright (JC will contact SW about this)

Doric Night

- planned on 07 May (a workparty day) from 19h30 in Inverurie Town Hall
- about 250 tickets have been sold
- volunteers to help on evening: JC & RS & BC & HL & Liz Leil, also Graham & Lorraine Hehir, more sought

Lidar

- presentation is planned on 23 May at 18h at Aberdeen University, more details to follow

PUBLICATIONS UPDATE (AB)

- quotes for 2017 calendar received from Peters of Turriff & MMS of Keith
- MMS quote was £183 cheaper than Peters and they did good jobs in previous years, so will go forward with them
- have selected photos with DT & HL, somewhat limited choice, dog theme planned,
- may incorporate FCS anti-dog fouling advice note, or info from recent "green dog" campaign leaflets
- could have separate leaflet included with each calendar
- in memoriam photo and acknowledgement of Kate Campbell being considered
- usually print in June, need new logo to get to printer by end May if possible

AOB

- JC thanked Barry & Chris Foster for their work on the Colony Trail leaflets and for their help at the Discover Bennachie treasure hunt event on 23 Apr
- ST and Ken Ledingham gave talk on the Colony & Balquhain papers to Dyce & District Oral History Group last week, 18 attendees, got £25 donation, they might want a walk in the summer
- National Trust NE Group have requested (via DT) a talk in November either at Haddo House or Fyvie Castle
- IR particularly concerned about logo "bump" on foremost hill, IR to consider sketching a profile which makes the bump less obtrusive
- BC asked if minutes of last meeting on 28 Mar 2016 were accepted as OK, this was confirmed
- membership update report from DT attached below as appendix
- next meeting is **30 May** in Bennachie Centre from 19h00

APPENDIX

MEMBERSHIP, WEBSITE & FACEBOOK UPDATE

Membership 2890

25th April 2016

0 x new members since last meeting

2 x Deceased

0 x Life

0 x Annual

0 renewal changed to standing order

0 address changes

Website

Forum

No Comments

Events

Have put Aberdeen Mountain Rescue poster on Fb, will put on Fb and Web as event when back from hols.

All events up to date, (if I have missed any please let me know)

E-mail

Request for talk forwarded to Sue Taylor

Email from Bill Henderson, SSE proposal for 50m high Pylons through Donside, forwarded to all for comments

Facebook

545 Likes

AOB

PO Box is due for renewal in May £312, please can I have a cheque for this amount and I will ring and pay on my credit card.