

Grandtully and Strathtay Conservation Trust

AGM: 22 November 2012

Grandtully Hall

Minutes

Present: Jeff Thomas (Chairman) (JT), Peter Hounam (Vice Chairman) (PH), Jean Adams (JA)

9 Members of the Trust

Apologies: Linda and Michael Campbell, Roger Graham (Co-opted Committee Member - overseas) and Muriel Simpson (Trust Treasurer - ill).

1. JT welcomed all to the meeting, introduced the directors and explained the meeting format.

2. Report by the Chairman on the 2012 company activities . The draft of the new Development Plan for Perth and Kinross, to which the Trust had contributed substantively, described as the Council 's " settled " view on the appropriate use of land for the period up to 2024 largely confirmed the settlement boundary of the Conservation Area. It therefore did not include the proposals submitted for new housing which would have required the Strathtay village development boundary to be extended. The draft plan did however suggest that the development boundary at the western end of Strathtay village be redrawn to include a field below and pertaining to Beechwood. We have been unable to establish the genesis of this proposal but have objected to the proposed change on the grounds of the environmental sensitivity of part of the site and its overall unsuitability for development.

In May we submitted to the Council our concerns regarding the hydro scheme proposed for Grandtully. This was a difficult application for the Trust which, through its Articles of Association, supports sustainable development. However, having spoken to residents and businesses located near the proposed site and reflecting both their views and the concerns of other members who contacted us, we had no option other than to object to the scheme on the grounds of potential noise pollution, location, design of the powerhouse and the need for a huge new lade. Concessions have since been made by the developers on the power house design, but we remain very concerned about the other issues we and others residents have raised. No decision on the application has yet been taken.

In the summer we applied for and received a small grant to help meet the costs of repainting and restoring the telephone box in Strathtay. Simon Grey of the village store kindly donated some paint and for this we are very grateful. It is gratifying that so many people have applauded the Trust decision to adopt the box and so save it from removal. Communities throughout Scotland have done so and there has been a good deal of media interest regarding the various schemes

being considered to give boxes a new lease of life. Our box is destined to become a village information point advertising local events and businesses. Regrettably, our application to the Griffin fund to obtain funds to carry out a feasibility study of the various improvements to the Conservation Area recommended in the Conservation Appraisal was rejected for the second time. We are therefore exploring with Council officials how best we can take this matter forward. In June the Trust organised and hosted a successful community barbeque at the Golf Club. This was well attended and enjoyed by all who were present. Over £300 was raised through the raffle which we donated to Aberfeldy Cottage Hospital.

The War Memorial was once again slightly damaged by a passing lorry though luckily major damage was avoided thanks to the bollards installed following pressure from the Trust some time ago. The Council quickly and efficiently repaired the damage once we had contacted them via the Community Council.

3. The Right to Buy Option on the Tigh na Stir Fields . JT explained the option was due to expire in May 2013. We had been asked if we would like to apply for re-registration. JT explained the background, potential uses for the land should it ever come up for sale and be purchased by the Community and the meeting discussed the question of finance should a sale become a possibility. The meeting unanimously authorised the committee to proceed with the re-registration process.

4. Confirmation and Election of new Directors

JT confirmed that he, PH and JA were prepared to stand again. So too was MS although she was currently very unwell. Margo Hanssen was prepared to continue as a co-opted Director but RG wished to stand down. The meeting confirmed the reappointment of JT, PH, JA, MS and MH and accepted the nominations of Lesley Whitwood and Lesley Thomas as Directors.

5. Fixing of Annual Subscriptions

Ordinary Resolution 1: To set the subscription for the year ended 31 March 2013 at nil and to continue to seek funding through donations, grants and fundraising.

Approval of the accounts of the Trust

Ordinary Resolution 2: To receive the accounts and reports of the Directors and the independent Examiner thereon for the period ended 31 March 2012.

In accordance with Article 67, the accounts for the end ended 31 March 2012 had been made available for inspection on the website of the Trust at www.grandtullyandStrathtay.co.uk

Ordinary Resolution 3: To appoint DTK Accountancy Service as Independent Examiner for the year ended 31 March 2013 and to authorise the Directors to determine their remuneration.

All the above resolutions were proposed and put to the vote of the meeting. All resolutions were passed unanimously by the ordinary members present.

6. AOB

During an informal discussion members raised the A9 dualling project presentation to be held in Pitlochry the following week and the series of public meetings to be held in early 2013 about the new PKC Development Plan (3 March in Aberfeldy) and discussed the proposed Hydro scheme application. PH asked for ideas from members for improvements to the Conservation Area. The question of encouraging more members to participate in Trust activities was raised when the Chair emphasised the need for continued community support through membership and communication if the Trust was to continue to operate effectively. JT proposed a vote of thanks to RG who was stepping down after several years of dedicated service to the Trust. His experience and good advice would be much missed.

The meeting closed at 7pm.