

Minutes from SCTEAG meeting 12th June 2017 7.00 Trust offices.

Present Tim Godfrey, Roger Cottis, Peter Roberts
Apologies Alan Drever, Dorothy Jackson, David Ashford, Chris Pendlebury

1. Ratification of 10th April Minutes were agreed to be forward to Trust for placing on the web site.

2. Minutes and matters arising.

- SSSI hire costs were included in the last meetings donations
- £37.50 for Tormore Futures meeting will be reimbursed on production of the receipt which Peter and Tim will look for.
- Dry Stone walling course was successful with a good uptake.

3. Review of talks programme finished

- Kinloch/Kyleakin Hills restoration 14th March
- Orchids and Invasives 11th April
- Easter event 15th April
- Visit of Whale and Dolphin Trust 23rd April
- Eigg –Building a sustainable Future 10th May

It was felt that the variety and range of the spring programmes had been good and well attended and a good basis for planning for the next season.

Plans for winter programme 2017/18 had received a number of ideas but it would be good to have further suggestions. So far the following ideas are offered.

- A follow up from the visit of the Silurian with a talk by Lauren Hartney-Mills - HWDT Science Officer
- RSPB 25 years on Skye with reference to eagles by Alison McLennan

Both these suggestion and offers to develop came from Alan who we hope can take forward to see when it would be convenient to the speakers.

- Possible talk on Mammals of the Highlands from Roger
- A link with a Tormore Futures follow up and Adele Beck on the Forest Plan and implications for developments over the next few years.
- It would be good to have a few more suggestions of possible topics, (as I write this I wonder about a sea/foreshore talk linked to shore exploration with a youthful slant?)

4. Tormore Forestry Plan

It would be good to have a copy of the plan sent to Roger and Peter. Peter will contact Henrik to have one forwarded.

- Peatland/wetland restoration project.
There was interested expressed in this idea and it was thought that there could be two areas in Tormore forest, one a raised bog area, which might be suitable to be reinstated as peatlands. There was a wish to engage with these possibilities and to consider the funding potential from Peatland Action.

5. TWIG role and issues

There was a quick review of the various issues being lead on by the TWIG group.

- Signage, Dorothy started drafting statements for the Fank and area.

- Leaflet update is also being progressed with the A5 acting as stand in at the moment.
- Volunteer days have gone well with new routes for walking, (potentially bikes), being surveyed. A need to discuss with Henrik prior to fresh felling taking place.
- Summer Solstice Celebrations will have BBQ and workshops for children and adult, 'rattles' and drumming respectively with performance together followed by live music from Rick Taylor and friends.
- Lottery submission has had no response so far.
- Follow up to Tormore Futures meeting will be arranged once the Forest plan has been accepted by FCS etc.

6. AOCB

- Publicity and multiple postings about the same event to the same individuals. It was felt on balance that it was better to have duplications rather than missed circulation and thanks were expressed to David for his help with this wider circulation.
- The idea for an Elm refuge is moving slowly forward but nothing definitive to report with Tim keeping contact with Euan in Inverness.

7. Date of next meeting 11th September 7.00