

Minutes of the MDMG Autumn Annual General Meeting

Lochaline Village Hall on 1st November 2017

Minutes Approved at the Spring Meeting on the 3rd April 2018

Present: Peter Lawson (Chairman) Kinlochteacuis, Steve Fox (Vice Chairman) Carnoch, Susan Larson (Secretary) Kingairloch, Iain Thornber Glensanda, Lynda Campbell (ADMG), Matt Wilson Oronsay, John Jackson FCS, Ian Collier FCS, Neil Roberts Laudale, Lorraine Servant (SNH), Tony McInnes Ardtornish,
Public Visitors - Calum McKechnie Drimnin Crofts, Douglas Weir Morvern Community Trust, Alasdair Firth Morvern Community Council and Morvern Community Wildlife Trust.

Apologies: Mark Foxwell SWT, John Macdonald Killundine and Drimnin, Derek Lewis Drimnin, Thomas Coope Kingairloch, William Boyland.

Minutes of Previous Meetings 18th April and 20th July accepted. Proposed by Tony McInnes Seconded by Steve Fox.

It was agreed that the Plot Coordinates showing Habitat Sites in the group will be sent out by Lorraine Servant with suggestions on where these might be placed on any individual site to close any gaps in coverage.

Peter Lawson took the meeting through each point on the Public Interest Benefit and Action Point part of the group MDMG Plan. Each Point is referenced in the DMG Pages 99 - 102.

Point 1. The updated list of qualifications (page 95 DMP)
Thomas Coope, Trained Hunter DMQ1 Kingairloch Stalker
Iain Thornber DMQ 1, Matt Wilson DMQ 1, FCS ALL have DMQ 1 and 2,
Neil Roberts DMQ2, Approved Witness Level 2, Peter Lawson DMQ1, Sheep Dipping Training.
Peter Lawson has been in touch with a Lantra course on Argo and Quad certified course and has offered Kinlochteacuis.

Point 2: Nearly all Estates have established Habitat Monitoring Plots as per the SNH training (see previous comment), Glensanda has completed a complete walkover survey Ardtornish will revisit their designated sites in 18 months and SNH conduct monitoring generally on a six-year cycle.

Point 3: The FCS conduct HIA throughout the Morvern forests. The MDMG has asked SNH previously for training for woodland Habitat and Lorraine Servant will look into it again for the group. Sunart Oakwoods are under review and both sides of Loch Sunart will be looked at.

Point 4: Alasdair Firth made a point of asking if woodland had sufficient HIA and as above this will be addressed with more training in the future when available. Ardtornish will report back to the group if they perceive any impact with their new planting.

Point 5: Woodland Training Needed. All willing to undertake this.

Point 6 Ardtornish has commissioned Alasdair Firth to do a Peatland survey and Peter Lawson is having Kinlochteacuis surveyed.

Point 7: No Sika deer have been reported but Feral Pigs and Goats might become a bigger problem. Much rhododendron clearance is happening over Morvern. Kingairloch reported that after large grant aided rhododendron clearance, cutting chipping and spraying they are spreading throughout the estate. Alasdair Firth said that he had seen Ash dieback in trees along the Drimnin road.

Point 8: The details of Pastmap web site to be circulated to group which is an ideal tool to show all/any historic/archeological sites in any area. All agreed to mark up an OS Map of their holding with all fence lines marked up - Green - Intact Deer fence, Red - Porous Deer fence, Blue - Stock Fence and ALL to be sent to Tony McInness who has agreed to put onto a large mapping tool they have.

Point 9: Training as above. It is recommended that everyone keeps a note of all training and the certification.

Point 10: The group felt we are very well informed relating to Lyme's Disease for informing the Public and visitors. It was agreed to inform any Deer-vehicle collisions to Susan Larson who will pass this information on. No accidents reported. Peter Lawson said that SQV have offered free assessments for anyone wishing to join the scheme.

Point 11: Much discussion undertaken to determine the action required and SNH/ADMG will find out if a spreadsheet is available to assist.

Point 12: Cost Analysis needs to be undertaken on individual estates.

Point 13: All agreed we are fully committed to ensure communication to the wider public is maintained and enhanced. Susan Larson will see about having the previous minutes uploaded to the ADMG website now they have been approved and Dick Playfair of the ADMG has agreed to help (Katrina).

Point 14: Estates to report mortalities found on the hill/woods back to the group via the return/audit? Ian Collier agreed to inform the MDMG of any new woodland felling/restocking proposals that came before him. The members to inform the group of any new fencing they undertake.

Stag Cull Figures/Proposed Hind Cull - All Estates reported Stags in very good condition. Very good fat carried through to end of rut. 2017 -2018

	STAG CULL	PROPOSED HIND CULL
ARDTORNISH	35	100
GLENSANDA	9	15 INC CALVES
KINGAIRLOCH	31	65-75 + Calves
LAUDALE	33	40-50 + Calves
CARNOCH	15	20-25 + CALVES
GLENCRIPESDALE	6	20 + CALVES
SNH GLENCRIP	18	20+ CALVES
KINLOCHTEACUIS	10	15-20+ CALVES
RAHOY	7	12 + CALVES
KILLUNDINE	10	25 +CALVES
DRIMNIN	16	15-20 +CALVES
FCS	78	60-70

Neil Roberts said that he felt that Ardtornish's cull numbers and where Stags had been culled would have been very helpful information to share with the group at the meeting.

The Spring Helicopter Deer Count - SNH are planning to count Morvern as early as possible. SNH said that help would be welcome in their Inverness Office when the data is analyzed. Ardtornish and Laudale, Kingairloch and Glensanda all commented that they would like input into the count days.

Susan Larson to provide Graeme Taylor SNH with the MDMG contact list of e mail and phone numbers.

Break for Tea

Updates from SNH - SWARD might be available in the Spring - this is a data collection analyzing system?

Sporting Rates Assessments are rolling out and the general feeling is to suggest appeal immediately. Advise to be aware of the Small Business Property relief which might be available.

ADMG - Showed the list of league tables - Morvern is in the bottom third of DMG's achievements and Peter Lawson said that he hoped that today's meeting proved that we as a group are fully committed to improving our standing. The Government Deer Working Group next review will be undertaken in April 2019. The next ADMG meeting is on the 23rd November 2017 in Inverness.

Recommended that Grid References for all Culled Deer are placed on the larder sheets.

Peter Lawson provided the details of Angus Davidson who is recommended by Rory Putman, to collate information that the group is gathering. HIA, Larder Sheets and.....

The cost is approx £2000 the first year and subsequent years £1000 going forward. Proposed by Tony McInnes and seconded by Susan Larson. A grant of £1800 is available from SNH which Peter Lawson will make sure we get!

The election of Office bearers - Treasurer - Susan Larson proposed Tony McInnes and Peter Lawson seconded.

Group Subscriptions: After a full discussion it was decided that the Annual Subscription would be £150 plus the ADMG proportion of each Estate. The ADMG fee is worked out as £4 Stag, £ Hind, £ Calf a and other species.

MDMG Constitution - An amendment to be made to clarify a significant landholding is to be a holding over 100 acres. Voting rights to persons who pay the subscription. Proposed by Tony McInnes and Seconded by Steve Fox.

Dates of Next Meeting: Tuesday 3rd April 2018 2pm Kingairloch
: Wednesday 31st October 2018 Lochaline Village Hall

Post Meeting:

Iain Thornber stated he felt all meetings should be in a public place.
Alasdair Firth suggested that perhaps the AGM should be moved to the Spring so that maybe more Stalkers would be able to attend