

## Minutes of Meeting – Heritors Meeting

**PRESENT:** Mr H Grierson (HG), Mr J Guest (JBG), Mrs E Roberts (ER), Mrs F Dove (FD), Mr A Hale (AH), Wing Com G Roberts (GR), Mr G Buckingham (GB), Mr A Mackenzie-Smith (AMS), Mrs A Moray-Parker (AMP)

**Clerks to the Commission:**  
Charles Arden (CA), Amy Campbell (AC)

**DATE OF MEETING:** 02/11/2023

**VENUE:** Abercairny Stables, Abercairny Estate

Item	Notes	Action by
1	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Noted and received from Mr K Emptage and Mr J England in advance. Apologies from Dr W Dove also noted at the meeting.</li> </ul>	
2	<p><b>Minutes from last meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Circulated prior to the meeting and shared on the website.</li> </ul>	
3	<p><b>Matters Arising from Minutes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The meeting agreed to accept the minutes.</li> </ul>	
4	<p><b>Financial Position</b></p>	
4.1	<p><b>Cash Position</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Clerks noted the current balance to be just below £42,000 as of 30/10. The cash position has benefited from successful recovery of debts, contributing to an increase of £8,000 from the date of last meeting.</li> <li>- It was noted that the cash position should remain higher due to Ian Ralston not being able to complete the full scope of clearance works planned due to adverse weather conditions and limitations of the SEPA license as they require 4 weeks' notice prior to any work taking place.</li> </ul>	
4.2	<p><b>Debtors and Creditors</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outstanding debtors account for approx. £24,000 of unpaid heritor assessments, this is a decrease of ~£7,000 from the date of last meeting.</li> <li>- Agricultural Heritor's who paid in advance are due to be paid back for their contributions towards supporting the 2019 Act through Parliament. Initial reimbursements will be completed by the end of November.</li> </ul>	Savills Savills
	<p><u>Post meeting note:</u> The Clerks will be sending invoices to Heritors (current 1<sup>st</sup> year debtors), who have not received their invoice. This action will be completed by 1<sup>st</sup> December.</p>	
4.3	<p><b>Debt Recovery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An update was provided on the service from MacNabs for the process of debt recovery. Having been instructed to proceed on reclaiming a number of Year Four debtors, they have been successful in their debt recovery thus far.</li> <li>- The meeting were asked to consider if a larger proportion of the budget should be dedicated to legal assistance with debt recovery. Currently MacNabs charge ~£375 per debt referral, with</li> </ul>	

Item	Notes	Action by
	<p>£150 of the fees recoverable, should the fee recovery claim be successful. Which it has been to date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clerks to discuss with MacNabs the possibility of upscaling the debt recovery process - specifically distributing an increased volume of 7-day payment letters. An email with further details will be circulated to the Commissioners for approval.</li> </ul>	Savills
5.	<p><b>Maintenance &amp; Condition of the Pow</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The volume of work undertaken by Ian Ralston on the Pow during summer was restricted due to the poor weather throughout the repair season.</li> <li>- Severe weather is now a contributing factor to slowing the progress of works. Many access points are under water or heavily saturated and due to the timescale that the SEPA Licence allows for, it is unlikely that all of the planned works will be completed this year.</li> <li>- The Pow is due to be inspected during February 2024 when weather conditions allow. Heritors requested to be notified in advance of when this will be undertaken so that they can express their interest for taking part. JBG to confirm date with Clerks who will circulate.</li> <li>- The residents of Balgowan are pleased with outcome the work undertaken to the front of the housing. During the recent heavy rainfall the flood risk has been significantly reduced. In future, residents have requested to be kept informed and notified in advance of any work being undertaken.</li> </ul>	JBG/ Savills  Savills
6.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussion surrounding nesting birds and the time/season at which works is being carried out. It was concluded that work taking before the breeding bird season is satisfactory.</li> <li>- JBG received a letter from Scottish Water regarding the renewal of a mains water pipe. Initial plans suggest it will cross over the section of the POW by Inchaffray Abbey. Further notification will be required before permission is granted. The Clerks are to issue a letter on behalf of the Commission reminding Scottish Water of their obligations under the Act.</li> <li>- Minutes from the meeting will be published on the website within a fortnight.</li> <li>- Date of the next meeting is <b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at Abercairny Estate Stables, PH7 3NQ at 19:00.</b></li> </ul> <p>The Clerks closed the meeting.</p>	Savills