**The Pow of Inchaffray Drainage Commission**

**Minutes of Heritors Meeting**

**7pm - 1st May 2025**

**Abercairny Stables. Abercairny Estate**

1. **Present:** G Buckingham (GB), K Emptage (KE), H Grierson (HG), J Guest (JG), A Mackenzie Smith (AMS), Mrs A Moray Parker (AMP), Mrs E Roberts (ER), Wing Commander G Roberts (GR)

**In Attendance:** Hazel and Ian Roy (Clerks)

**Apologies**: M Blackburn, Atalla Buretta, Mr & Mrs Dove, J England, A Hale, M Mair, R Simpson, H Watkins, K Watkins

1. **Appointment of Chairman:** It was unanimously agreed that HG be appointed as Chairman for the meeting.
2. **Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising**: The minutes of the meeting of Heritors held on 28th November 2024, copies of which had been posted on the website, were unanimously approved. There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.
3. **Condition of the Pow**: JG had walked and inspected The Pow on 24th April 2025, and he had produced a report for the Commissioners which will shortly be posted to the Pow website. JG went through his report in detail advising that from this report he had spoken to Ian Ralston about the work to be performed in the coming season.

This was substantial and involved some catch up on work which could not be completed last year. The draft budget amounted to a cost of £32,000.

The work includes the cost of Beaver control which is becoming an increasingly challenging situation.

There was discussion. Questions were asked, and discussion took place particularly concerning trees adjacent to the Pow close to the current Beavers activity. As these trees are not within the area of jurisdiction covered by The Pow under the legislation, the Commission can do little about them.

JG also took time to explain the consequence of work being done close by Abbey Bridge by Scottish Water who had a legal duty and obligation to consult The Commission before their work proceeds around the Pow at that point. A reply had been promised from Scottish Water by Friday 3rd May.

HG was at pains to stress that so much of the work which is done on the Pow is out of sight of the public and indeed of many of the Heritors and that this should always be mentioned when Heritors and others ask questions about maintenance work.

1. **Financial Position**: The Clerks summarised the current financial position in the following terms as at 30th April 2025:

Funds in bank account - £52,383

Debtors Awaiting Collection - £25,920

VAT Due to HMRC - £5,760

All assessments were issued on 1st April and alterations because of notifications being given of changes of ownership are being dealt with as they arise.

1. **Debtor**s: In terms of the debtors awaiting collection figure noted under item 5 above, there are three debtors dating back to past years which have become somewhat entrenched and The Commissioners will determine at their meeting following the Heritor’s Meeting the course of action to be taken to recover these.

HG pointed out, and this was readily agreed by everyone present, that the assessments are a statutory assessment under an Act of Parliament and therefore these must be paid without exception. Where legal action must be taken to collect debtors, this comes at a cost which inevitably has a knock-on impact on what all other Heritors are required to pay.

Every Heritor is given the opportunity to attend the twice a year Heritor’s meeting to make representations If they feel that any aspect of the work on the Pow requires attention.

All Heritors were invited to this meeting.

1. **Any Other Business:** The Clerks raised the content of emails recently received by them particularly in relation to Beaver control and following JG’s report at four above these Heritors can now be reassured that work on Beaver Control will be in hand with this year’s work.
2. **Date of Next Meeting**: The next meeting of Heritors is set for Thursday 13th November 2025 at Abercairny Stables, Abercairny Estate at 7:00 PM

The meeting closed at 7.40pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair and to AMP for her hospitality.