

The Pow of Inchaffray Drainage Commission

Minutes of Commissioners Meeting

7.30pm – 13th November 2025

Abercairney Stables. Abercairney Estate

- 1. Present:** G Buckingham (GB), H Grierson (HG), J Guest (JG), A Mackenzie Smith (AM), Mrs A Moray Parker (AMP), Mrs E Roberts (ER)

In Attendance: Hazel and Ian Roy (Clerks)

Apologies: K Emptage (KE)

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 Commissioners held on 1st May 2025, 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 provided an update on work done on the Pow in recent times informing the meeting that planned expenditure for 2025 had been substantially completed and that further catch-up work not completed in 2024 as previously agreed was ongoing. Invoices had been received totalling £20,000 and it is expected that a further invoice of around £10,000, again as previously discussed and agreed, would be forthcoming before the end of the year thereby bringing the year's planned work up to date

There was some general discussion concerning the ongoing work programme much of which is carried out, out of sight of the public and indeed of many of the Heritors.

There was discussion concerning some trees at Balgowan which were preventing easy access to the Pow. It was agreed that these should be removed. It was further agreed that the Balgowan Residents Association be notified of this and the reasons.

HG then raised the question of the need to change the way annual inspections of the Pow should proceed, to alleviate the heavy responsibility that this places on JG. HG suggested that Commissioners should become involved in the walk through process each year. HG and AMP agreed to be involved next year.

It was also agreed with grateful thanks to AMP that her staff become involved in creating a drone video of the walk thereby creating the capability of this video being shown to Commissioners and Heritors at the meeting in May 2026. JG expressed his willingness to continue to assist in an advisory capacity.

There was discussion about the possibility of trying to get younger people involved in the process, perhaps with a view to them becoming Commissioners in the future. Two individuals – Alistair Clark and Angus Rowan Hamilton would be approached about this.

4. **Financial Position:** The Clerks summarised the current financial position in the following terms as at 11th November 2025, based on financial accounts which had been prepared and presented to the Commissioners in advance of the meeting.

Funds in bank account - £39,595

Debtors Awaiting Collection - £4,259

VAT Due from HMRC - £4,054

5. **Debtors:** In terms of the debtors awaiting collection, there remains one debtor dating back to past years where a court order has been taken out for collection.

There was discussion concerning this debt and it was agreed that if the court action did not precipitate a payment from the debtor, the Clerks are authorised to exercise action as far as possible to secure the debt by way of lien over any future sale or transfer of the property.

Other past years Debts are now on standing order arrangement with a view to their ultimate collection.

6. **Budget for 2026/2027**

The Clerks had submitted a suggested budget for 2026/2027 which highlighted reducing administrative costs and including a proposed cost of £23,000 plus VAT to be budgeted for in respect of drainage, repair and cleaning work on the Pow for next year. AM asked JG whether this allowance was sufficient to bring work up to date and JG confirmed in the affirmative.

The budget was unanimously approved.

7. **Any Other Business:**

(a) JG advised that he had received on a computer pen drive information concerning mapping for the Pow and he felt that this would be an appropriate time to find a land agent or equivalent who would be willing to take this information and retrain it on their systems. AM advise the meeting that he knew someone to whom he could speak and it was agreed that he should do so and report back.

(b) The Clerks reminded commissioners of an email they had circulated recently where an external body sought information for their database of names of the commissioners. All Commissioners present agreed that their names could be forwarded as appropriate.

8. **Date of Next Meeting:** : The next meeting of Heritors is set for Wednesday 22nd April 2026 at Abercairney Stables, Abercairney Estate at 7:00 PM

The meeting closed at 8.45pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair, and to AMP for her hospitality.