

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

EAST SUTHERLAND DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP held at GOLSPIE INN, GOLSPIE on 24TH
OCTOBER 2014 at 2.00 pm

Present:

Mr A Mackay	Dalnessie	Sir Michael Wigan	Borrobol
Mr J Macdonald	Borrobol	Mr D Macaskill	FCS
Ms R Stickland	Clebrig	Mr G Symmers	Balnacoil
Lord Joicey	Loch Choire	Mr T Chetwynd	Loch Choire
Mr J Cruickshanks	Ben Armine	Mr R Bain	Torrish
Mr R Rowantree	Gordonbush	Mr R Seaman	Tressady
Mr & Mrs V Ryan	Dalnessie	Mr B Lyall.	Badanloch
Mr P Bakker	Vagastie	Mr L Hague	Gordonbush
Mr L Macnicol	Tressady	Mr D Bentley	Achentoul
Mr P Voy	Sutherland Estates (Chairman)		
Mrs E Cameron	Sutherland Estates (Secretary)		

In Attendance:

Ms Linzi Seivwright	SNH	Mr D Patterson	SNH
Mr Victor Clements			

1. WELCOME

Peter Voy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr J C Billett, Kintradwell; Mr J Nicholson, Clebrig; Mr B Colvin, Kintradwell; Mr N Mackay, Loch Choire; Mr A Sutherland, Sutherland Estates; Mr W Lamont, FCS

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on October 2013 were circulated by email prior to the meeting. Any changes to be notified to Chairman or Secretary.

4. MATTERS ARISING

None

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The current account balance is £455.18. Outstanding subscription due to ADMG £1200, ESDMG subs still to receive £1721.75
FCS to pay subs to DMGs rather than direct to ADMG.

6. CULLS AND COUNT 2013/14

It was noted with concern that Kildonan did not take part in the count. The absence of count data over such a significant area is damaging to the credibility of the Group. It was hoped this could be resolved by a letter from the Chairman. It was agreed that the hind cull generally should be increased. Tressady would not be increasing its cull since there were less deer on the ground.

7. WINDFARM/WOODLAND DEVELOPMENT

Borrobol has replanted a third of the area affected by windblow. Sutherland Estates reported a new Crofter Forestry Scheme at Dalreavoch of 220ha. In discussion it was suggested that the resulting fencing might benefit Tressady if it helped to steer deer away from the crofting areas on the east side of the estate.

B Lyall raised ongoing concerns about deer management in Rimsdale Forest including reports that deer were being killed outwith the fenced area. It was agreed that the Chairman would approach Andrew Leslie for a response.

The following windfarm activity was noted: Dalchork Forest windfarm about to go to planning. Kilbruar South still a couple of years away from planning. Dalnessie not going forward; Tressady was refused planning and an appeal had been rejected.

8. DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

A revision of the existing DMP for ESDMG is due in 2015. Linzi Seivwright said that an assessment of the DMP had been carried out and the existing plan was not suitable to cover the current requirements in relation to (a) the function of the Group – membership, information gathering, habitat, etc. and (b) the public interest element. DMGs need to prove to Government and public that the current voluntary code is working by 2016.

Linzi is available to support the Group in producing a suitable DMP. SNH grant pool of £250k to help develop DMPs on a 50% match funding basis.

9. HABITAT MONITORING

Fran Michelmore Root is continuing to develop the software to input info on habitat, count and cull data etc which can then produce reports to help owners and which could be used by DMG.

Victor Clements spoke about the DMP that he produced for NW Sutherland DMG. It is a map based plan which can be updated easily

10. AOCB

It was agreed that the Group should have a vice chairman and Tom Chetwynd was elected to that position. Suggestions for a public representative to attend next meeting to be emailed to chairman. It was noted that SNH are organising a meeting for South Fleet area to discuss the possibility of a DMG or sub-group for that area. An infra-red camera survey by SNH showed 150 deer from the Clashmore to Creich road.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to hold a meeting in Spring 2015 to assess the season and take forward the deer management plan process. Date to be confirmed.