

**MINUTES OF THE EAST GRAMPIAN DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP SUB AREA 1
MEETING HELD IN GLENISLA HOTEL
ON MONDAY 19th JUNE 2017 AT 9.30AM**

PRESENT: Florian Kuhnle – In the Chair
Deirdre Stewart – Secretary

Bruce Cooper
James Gammell
Major Gibb
Nicholas Gibb
Ian Hope (SNH)
Bill Mearns
Rob Mearns
Andrew Ogilvie Wedderburn
Kevin Peters
Ian Robertson
Shona Smith (SNH)
Thom Wells

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from both Barclay Dougall and Andrew Gammell.

Updated contact information was provided for Jason Williamson, and others, in effort to ensure lines of communication.

**2 & 3 MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING/CAENLOCHAN STEERING GROUP
MEETING 10th MARCH 2017**

Agreed.

4. POPULATION MODELLING/CULLS

Further work on population modelling is planned, to involve SNH, East Grampian Deer Management Group Sub Area 2, Colin McLean from Deer Consultancy Services, and representatives from East Grampian Deer Management Group Sub Area 1, being Florian, Deirdre and Bruce Cooper.

Dates proposed lying between 27th July and 20th August. Meeting to progress population modelling to be organised by Secretary.

Further discussion on culls; Nick Gibb hesitant about increasing culls. James Gammell commented that he felt that all the stags tend to be wintered on his ground, and then largely dealt with out of season. Feels that neighbours should contribute to controlling them before they winter on their land.

Cull numbers for stags for Group Members were gathered as follows:

Name of Property	Proposed Stag Cull 2017
Alrick and Auchavan	20
Glenisla House	20 - 25
Tulchan	60
FCS Glendoll (FCS Glemarkie (fenced) 120)	35
SNH Coire Fee	15
Glenprosen and Balnaboth	25 stags let, cull expected to be much as per 2016 (36)
Clova South	
Glenhead, Glendamph	
Auldallan	2 - 3
Drumderg	1 - 2
Ballintore	15 - 20
Tarabuckle	15

There was further discussion on the probable stag cull within Mildewan/Harran. The Group can prove that we have endeavoured to make contact. Currently we have no influence on owner nor response to the Deer Management Group. Thom Wells is going to provide contact details for the stalking tenant.

There was discussion as to future restructuring of the woodland and existence of a Long Term Forest Plan for Harran. Kevin Peters provided a name at Forestry Commission Perth (Cameron Maxwell) as a potential contact for this information.

Bruce Cooper suggested that we ask Graham Dey, local MSP, to a Group meeting as he sits on the RACCE Committee.

There was further discussion on the use of regulatory power by SNH for those landowners not participating in the Group activity.

Nicholas Gibb again raised the issue of increased access and this affecting deer numbers and stalking.

Returning to the proposed stag cull for 2017, numbers proposed are expected to be in the region of 270 stags. The 5 year average for the Group is 318. Therefore, proposed stag numbers to be culled 2017 represents 20% of the number of stags from the 2017 winter count. Bruce Cooper stated that he felt this was still high.

Concerns were raised with regards to significant out of season culls of stags around Finegand, stags coming in from both west and east direction.

Further discussion on needing to strategically consider fencing proposals to prevent marauding stags.

5. HABITAT IMPACT ASSESSMENT WORK

Colin McLean at Deer Consultancy Services, having been responsible for preparation of the Group's Deer Management Plan, provided a quotation for assistance in habitat impact assessment training. This was quoted at £300 per trainer, for the day. This was accepted by the Group.

SNH offered assistance with this training 1) by providing some funding; 2) by providing a Member of SNH staff to help train and inform and 3) by sharing information on the herbivore impact assessment to be carried out in 2018 by SNH (tendered/contracted). Upon the Caenlochan designated area, this representing the last assessment upon the designated site during the current control agreement term.

There is Best Practice Guidance available on HIA work.

Kevin Peters suggested the importance of us doing the HIA work consistently across the Group and to an appropriate standard.

6. ACCOUNTS/BUDGET

Deirdre Stewart talked through a sample budget for the Group for 2017. Subject to decisions made at the meeting, a final budget will be circulated. The budget will serve to gather income from Group members, sufficient to cover expected expenditure.

Expenditure is perceived to involve professional fees to deer consultancy services for work on the HIA training (max £600) and population modelling advice (2 days at £180/day), fees to Galbraith/Deirdre Stewart as Secretary (£2000 + VAT and O/o pocket exp), hosting of the website by the Association of Deer Management Groups (£120 + VAT) and incidental expenses such as village hall etc.

The Chairman confirmed that where the East Grampian Deer Management Group umbrella Group had previously invoiced for annual subscriptions due, it was anticipated that this would also be invoiced at Sub Area 1 Group level, by Deirdre Stewart as Secretary.

Request was made once again for contributions in way of photographs, links to Estate websites etc. in order for the Secretary to compile the Group's website upon the ADMG site.

7. DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN ACTION POINTS

A summary of the action points is attached.

8. SCOTTISH WATER

Glenhead and Glendamph - It is not known if there is a new tenant in place upon the Scottish Water land at Glenhead and Glendamph. Participation by the tenant within the Deer Management Group will be essential.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Secretary will undertake to gather monthly updates upon Member stag cull.