HEN minutes
21st August
Glachbeg
Present: Melanie Lister-Kaye, Morag smart, Faith Hillier, Duncan MacDonald, Bob bull, Suzann Bar, Kerry Riddell, Julia Duncan.

Apologies: Marion, Toni, Susan, Anne

- **Minutes from previous meeting:**
  We have a revised bill from Inverness high school for £100.08 for the canteen used during 2008 conference.
  We have renewed the events insurance to be a multi venue event insurance for 12 events a year.

- **Matters arising from the agenda:**
  Conference theme 2009:
  Kerry Riddell met with Ailsa and Noel from the highland council who are very keen to be involved with the HEN conference. They are doing a lot of work in house but are gearing up to do more outreach work from next year; they said they could do two workshops either:
  Catastrophic events and how we would cope with them.
  A workshop on local footprints similar to the work being done by sustainable Scotland with 7 local councils
  They could also help us to find a keynote speaker.
  AP: Kerry continue communication

  Julia Duncan came up from Stirling to give us an update on the forum for environmental volunteering. Julia is the co-ordinator; the post is funded by the Scottish executive and hosted by BTCV. It works with 20 organisations mostly national (Scotland)and she has been working to ensure volunteers in the central area are better equipped which means they have access to training, events, learning opportunities and are supported. 30 groups have been used as case studies and they are looking to find case studies in the highlands to offer these opportunities to in the future. It was suggested a specific meeting was set up to discuss this further in October.
  For more information see the website www.feva-scotland.org.
  AP: Julia and Kerry arrange a meeting.

  Aigas offered their new woodland classroom as a venue for the conference and would also be happy to run a games workshop for kids on the day as we have a climate change programme that we run with our school groups. Contact point is Morag Smart at Aigas. Bob was concerned about transport and pollution and Duncan suggested the council may be able to provide a collection service from

Beauly train station. Aigas would also be able to help with this if the conference was on the 14th.
AP: The committee will decide a venue.

Development of Hen project/development officer:
Marion (and Shelia) has been in discussion with several funders about the proposal such as Esme Fairburn Foundation, the highland council, SNH and the leader + project. The suggest post would be for one day a week over 2 or 3 years, and the proposal includes a budget for equipment such as a computer, staff time and expenses. Suzann suggested the mentioning conference targets might jazz up the applications.
AP: Marion will carry forward with funders and Sheila will feed comments back to Marion.

Newsletter:
The newsletter will go out early this term and there is still room for contributions especially events.
AP: Sheila

Treasury report by Bob bull:
Income: £2840.55
Conference: £3270.90
Balance : £5353.66

Hen training programme:
Shelia reported positive feedback from Anne Murray at SNH regarding funding the sub group are awaiting news...

Hen minutes and invitations:
It was discussed if we should be issuing invitations to organisations/ individuals such as the forestry commission to attend HEN meetings, it was suggested that even electronic participation would be useful.
AP: Kerry will approach Ailsa and Noel from the Highland council to join the meetings.

News:
Kerry is staying with BTCV and Jenny is coming back. They are launching a green gym in merckinch.

Suzann is running a level 3 forest schools training session starting in March which will be advertised soon.

Duncan is awaiting response from Jonathon Willet (minute taker neglected to note down what the response is to!!).

Bob introduced Robin to the group who is a new member of their team and told us about the success of the Init together club which has slots available for presenters if anyone is able to provide a workshop.

Sheila was happy to announce that the real nappy project has got funding and is looking for a job share co-ordinator.

Aigas has a new sustainably built woodland classroom which is available for conferences, events, meetings and environmental education. Faith came along as she will be staying on at Aigas for another year and may represent Aigas at some HEN meetings. Melanie is due to start maternity leave and will be leaving the area in the next few months. She wishes everyone the best of luck and thanks them for their support over the last four years.

Next meeting:
November the 6th – Aigas is available as a venue.