

## Deer in Lochcarron

### Meeting at Howard Doris Centre, Lochcarron Friday, 9 November 2018 at 14:00hrs

#### Present:

Willie Fraser (WF)	- <i>ADMG (Chair)</i>	Colin Murdoch (CM)	- <i>Reraig Forest</i>
Kenny Mackenzie (KM)	- <i>Lochcarron Comm.</i>	Gillian Pattinson (GP)	- <i>Lochcarron Estate</i>
Willie Mackenzie (WM)	- <i>Lochcarron Comm.</i>	Sue Jones (SJ)	- <i>Lochcarron Comm.</i>
Hassie Arthur (HA)	- <i>Lochcarron Comm.</i>	Charlie Hill (CH)	- <i>Glen Mhor Estate</i>
Mark Pattinson (MP)	- <i>Lochcarron Estate</i>	Sinclair Coghill (SC)	- <i>SNH</i>
Blair Houser (BH)	- <i>Lochcarron Comm.</i>	Tom Chetwynd (TC)	- <i>SWRDMG (Sec)</i>

#### Apologies

David Mackenzie	- <i>Lochcarron Comm.</i>	Shaun Macdonald	- <i>SWRDMG</i>
Chris Macdonald	- <i>Kirkton Plantation</i>	Chris Mackenzie	- <i>Achnashellach Estate</i>

#### 1.0 Welcome

The Secretary welcomed those present and briefly explained the purpose of the meeting and the background to the issue with deer in Lochcarron before handing over to The Chair.

The Chair asked those present to provide a brief introduction to include how they are involved with deer in the community and what their concerns are.

#### 2.0 Points Discussed & Issues Raised

The discussions that followed covered a range of matters and various issues including the following:

- **Lyme Disease:** incidence may be increasing although this may partly be due to greater awareness; range of hot spots throughout Scotland, including Uists; recent cases included family members and child in Kishorn; blood tests from deer collected for NHS England research.
- **Ticks:** prevalence of ticks in local area; identified that deer culled recently on enclosed crofting common grazings had fewer ticks than those culled in local woodland; decline in ticks may be due to either decline in sheep on crofts and/or effectiveness of treatment on existing sheep stock.
- **Fencing:** extent of deer fences from Glen Mhor to New Kelso; recent repairs undertaken by Glen Mhor Estate; recent installation of cattle grid by Highland Council on A896; current state of fences around Kirkton Plantation; hole in fence between Tullich and Lochcarron Golf Course with significant control either side.
- **Current Position with Deer:** Deer access to shinty pitch and gardens on daily basis; SNH aerial deer counts indicated population of 8 deer on Lochcarron South in 2010 and 80 deer in 2017; current population now probably enclosed on crofting grazings following fencing repairs and installation of cattle grid; current population estimated to be in the region of 50 deer overall on crofts, crofting common grazings and open hill between Reraig Forest and Kirkton Plantation; smaller sub-population identified immediately above Lochcarron causing immediate concern.
- **Current Actions:** Lochcarron Estate currently culling deer on crofting common grazings; 14 deer culled since 30 October 2018.
- **Deer Vehicle Collisions:** no recent deer vehicle collisions reported

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### 3.0 Action List

Ref:	Detail	Action
1.0	Lochcarron Estate to continue reduction cull with immediate focus on sub-population to north of village and regular returns submitted to SWRDMG	Lochcarron Estate
2.0	Deer fences to north of village to be checked on quarterly basis by all relevant owners	LCDC/Tullich/ Glen Mhor / KM
3.0	SNH to assist with authorisations deemed necessary to undertake cull	SNH
4.0	SWRDMG to provide collaborative support if required	SWRDMG
5.0	Cull on enclosed crofts to west of Lochcarron to continue to be undertaken by crofters	Crofters
6.0	Situation to be monitored by Community Deer Rep (Kenny Mackenzie) with regular reports to SWRDMG	KM/ SWRDMG
7.0	Deer management article to be produced for An Carranach magazine	SWRDMG
8.0	Community Deer Rep to be invited to all SWRDMG meetings and SWRDMG to be invited to all community meetings relating to deer	KM/ SWRDMG
9.0	All Deer Vehicle Collisions (DVCs) to be logged by Community Deer Rep and logged with SWRDMG	KM