

Birse Community Trust

Minute of Board Meeting

23rd February 2016

Trustees Present: Jean McLeod (Chair), Doug Boyle, John Hector,

Also Present: Rick Paul (Secretary to Board), Robert Dinnie (Patron), Robin Callander (Adviser),

Apologies: Trustees Anita Stutter, Mark White and Jonathan Kitching, Jane Winton (Book-keeper)

1. Introduction

1.1 The agenda was confirmed. Four apologies and one item for AOB were noted. It was agreed the former Soup Kitchen should be called the Archive Building in the Agenda and other papers.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The previously circulated Minutes of the Meeting on 19th January were agreed and signed.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Finzean Old School: It was agreed the monthly fire safety checks should not be a regular item on Board Agendas, but monitored monthly under RP and JW's annual work programme lists.

5.2 Finzean Old School: It was confirmed that RP is still checking whether a key is due to be returned by Ann Fletcher.

4. Finances

4.1 Annual Accounts 2015: It was noted that the draft Accounts are due in early March. The previously circulated draft Trustees Report for the Accounts was agreed.

4.2 BTCO: The previously circulated BTCO financial tables for 2015 were noted. It was agreed that the role of the income from Slewdrum and Balfour Forests in BCT's finances would be a good topic to cover in BCT's Annual Report on 2015, given the very limited other income during the year. It was agreed that RP will, as Board Secretary, represent BCT at BTCO's AGM on 10th March.

5. Administration

5.1 AGM: It was confirmed that all Trustees are willing to continue for another year and that JH will be nominated for one of the vacancies for elected Trustees at the AGM. It was agreed to consider further a suitable performance/presentation to follow the AGM, noting Dr Simon Taylor and Peter Craig as people who could possibly be approached about a presentation related to the Birse parish area.

5.2 Membership: The previously circulated table and list of members were noted. It was agreed to try to sign up to a significant number of further new members in advance of the AGM.

5.3 Strategic Plan 2016-20: It was recognised that a number of unscheduled and time consuming BCT involvements since the autumn, include those covered under 6.1-6.4, had limited RC's chances to produce a draft. The nature and role of the Strategic Plan were discussed, and it was agreed that the key target is to have a draft on BCT's website by the AGM. It was confirmed that BCT will consult the Community Associations and Councils on the draft and invite local comments on it more generally, and that the Trustees can develop the draft as appropriate over the following months.

5.4 BPLG: It was noted that agenda items have been requested from the other groups for the meeting on 8th March hosted by BCT, and agreed that JM, DB, RP and RC will attend for BCT.

5.5 Insurance: It was confirmed that BCT should go ahead with the renewal due on 28th February. It was noted that MW has started reviewing BCT's insurance and agreed to discuss this further at the next Board Meeting. It was agreed that the re-instatement costs for the Mills and Soutar's Shop should be considered on a different basis from the Old School buildings and Birse Hall, and that different approaches to obtaining current re-instatement values could be considered.

5.6 Charity Seminar: The previously circulated invite to a seminar for Charity Trustees was noted.

6. Properties

6.1 Finzean Mills: It was confirmed that Trustees had agreed the use of the video for the National Museums of Scotland, during their site visit on 31st January to inspect the flood damage at the mills. It was noted that RC is still in correspondence with the Council about the circular saws and H&S. It was confirmed that RC should take forward the proposed 'onshore' repairs at the Bucket Mill and Sawmill. It was noted that RP has submitted an application to the Council for £1.5K of flood support and confirmed that an application should be submitted to Foundation Scotland's Flood Fund for c. £4K towards the onshore costs. It was recognised that, while the priority is to get water down the lades at both mills to limit drying out, it will take significantly longer to plan re-building the weir. The previously circulated record of RC's meeting with Historic Environment Scotland was noted and it was confirmed that RC should act as project manager in developing the grant application to HES.

6.2 Commonty Pinewood: The previously circulated paper on BCT's pine planting programme was discussed. It was agreed not to plant the 2016 area and to concentrate all the planting on the existing areas. The previously circulated record of the Commonty Advisory Group Meeting in January was noted, and it was also noted that the annual Commonty Management Meeting with Birse and Ballogie Estates is on 24th February.

6.3 Slewdrum Forest: It was noted that FCS is expected to provide a revised draft disposition for the 5 ha soon and confirmed that BCT needs a settlement date before or by 31st March to secure the SLF grant. The previously circulated re-assurance from the Commonty Fishing Proprietors over remedial work to the bank erosion was noted and RC reported that there are now stones on site.

6.4 Finzean School Wood: It was noted that the draft Agreement with Guy Haslam over building the memorial had been modified to accommodate GH's contractor's wish to use his mini digger on site. The draft Agreement was endorsed subject any further revisions.

6.5 Finzean Hall Car Park: It was noted that Finzean Estate is, with prior consultation, currently extracting timber on to the part of the Hall car park leased by BCT and that, in view of this, the Estate has offered to make a donation towards the costs of tarring more of the car park. It was noted that, despite the remaining area being leased by BCT, Guy Haslam had immediately taken over the scope for an initiative without any consultation and approached the Council unsuccessfully about possible planning gain funding. It was agreed that tarring more of the car park would be a good project to take forward and that, for example, BCT could consider matching the Estate's donation as part of raising the funds when BCT is in a financial position where it could do so.

7. Other Projects

7.1 Local Estates: The previously circulated records of the three meetings with local estates in December and January were noted. It was agreed that BCT's annual meetings with Birse Estate and with Ballogie Estate are very useful and that it would be helpful to have a regular annual meeting with Finzean Estate, given the range of shared topics between BCT and the Estate.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Members Visits: It was agreed that BCT should set a date for a visit to the Mills and one for the Soutar's Shop, and then advertise the dates through POOT and other means, while also inviting local groups and committees that might be interested in visiting one or other of BCT's sites.

9. Trustees Meetings and Visits

9.1 Board Meetings: It was confirmed that the next Meeting will be at 7 pm on 15th March in the Archive Building.

9.2 Sites Visits: It was agreed that RP will propose dates for further visits to BCT sites at the next Board Meeting.

15th March 2016

Signed & Dated

Birse Community Trust. The Old School. Finzean. Banchory AB31 6NY
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