

Birse Community Trust

Minutes of Board Meeting 5th June 2016

Birse Luncheon Hut, Forest of Birse Community

Trustees Present: Jean McLeod (Chair), Guy Haslam, John Hector, Jonathan Kitching

Apologies: Doug Boyle, Mark White.

In Attendance: Robert Dinnie (Patron), Rick Paul (Secretary to Board), Jane Winton (Book-keeper), Robin Callander (Adviser), Paul Chapman (BTCO Director), Dorothy Dinnie.

1. Introduction

1.1 JM welcomed new Trustee Guy Haslam. The Agenda was confirmed and two apologies noted. There were three items for AOB.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The Minutes of Meeting on 19th April 2016 were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising

5.4 BTCO Records: It was noted that nearly all the early BTCO Minutes have been located and copied.

4. AGM 17th May 2016

4.1 Minutes: The Draft Minutes of AGM were agreed.

4.2 Attendance: The previously circulated updated Attendance Records were noted and it was agreed to review the AGM format at a future meeting.

4.3 Review: The 2016 AGM was discussed and it was suggested that participation in social media may improve communication and engagement. A date of Tuesday 16th May was proposed for 2017 AGM.

5. Administration

5.1 New Trustee: It was noted that GH has received the new Trustee's documents pack and links to various items on BCT's website. GH noted his register of interests and how he found the pack very helpful.

5.2 Membership: It was agreed that a one to one approach was the best method of engaging with potential members on the electoral register.

5.3 Policies: BCT's previously circulated Codes of Conduct; Equal Opportunity Policy and Health & Safety Policy were each reviewed and approved.

5.4 Insurance: It was agreed to endorse the previously circulated Insurance Statement, pending a review of BCT's insurance policies by MW later in the year.

5.5 BTCO: It was confirmed that this was the annual meeting for 2016 between BCT Trustees and BTCO Directors. PC gave an update on current work in the forests and it was noted in discussion that BTCO anticipates making a donation to BCT during the year.

6. Properties

6.1 Finzean Mills: It was noted that the meeting with HSE & Aberdeenshire Council about the circular saws had been constructive and helpful. It was also noted an application has been made to Foundation Scotland for more funding. It was agreed that the 2 pier ends of the Sawmill Weir should be repaired now as a first stage, with work on the middle section unlikely to happen in 2016. It was agreed that a reply will be sent to the DDSFB confirming that BCT

will be in touch to discuss the repairs to the weir. It was agreed to appoint David Hector as BCT's Mills Manager. It was noted that the film "Moondogs" is to premier at the Edinburgh Film Festival in June.

6.2 Community Woods/Path: It was noted that the path from the new houses to the hall car park had been installed and that FCA is developing its project to far more of the land that BCT leases in the car park. It was agreed that BCT could consider giving up that area of land, if it was possible to lease the area next to the path from the new houses. It was agreed that RC will discuss this with Finzean Estate and FCA. It was noted that the JF memorial seat is in place, that the project should soon be signed off and that, at the family's request, there will be no official opening ceremony.

6.3 Forest of Birse Commonty: It was noted that RC met with Ballogie Estate on site in the Commonty Pinewoods on 24th May and discussed improving the deer control to protect the planted pine. It was also noted that RC is to meet with Birse Estate on 24th June to discuss Fungle route, tree planting south of Balloch and other topics.

7. Projects

7.1 Deer Management: The previously circulated draft Birse Parish DMG Deer Report 2015-16 was noted.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Strategic Plan: In response to an email from GH which was previously circulated, it was confirmed that the draft Plan will be presented at the 16th August meeting and that the planned pattern of meetings and consultations can be discussed further at that stage, to ensure that the Plan can be finalised before the end of the year.

8.2 Birse Path: It was brought to the attention of the Trustees by JK that the path near the Queen's Loch is in need of maintenance. JK will produce a map and RC will bring up the topic at his Birse Estate meeting.

8.3 Business Rates: It was noted that after discussion with Aberdeenshire Council, BCT will continue to be exempt from business rates for all properties.

9. Board Meetings

9.1 Luncheon Hut: It was confirmed that a 'thank you' letter will be sent to Birse Estate for the use of the Hut. It was agreed to see if BCT can use the Hut for a meeting again in 2017 at roughly the same date. DD was thanked for providing the excellent tea & cakes.

9.2 Board Meetings: It was noted that there will be no meeting in July and that the next meeting will be Tuesday 16th August, followed by Tuesday 20th Sept, both at 7.15 pm in the Old School Archive.



16/8/16

Signed _____

Date _____