

Birse Community Trust

Minute of Board Meeting

16th August 2016

Trustees Present: Doug Boyle (Acting Chair), Jonathan Kitching, Guy Haslam and John Hector;

Also Present: Rick Paul (Secretary to Board), Jane Winton (Administrator), Robin Callander (Adviser)

Apologies: Jean McLeod (Trustee) and Robert Dinnie (Patron)

1. Introduction

1.1 Apologies were noted from JM and RD. It was agreed that DB would Chair the meeting. The Agenda was confirmed and it was agreed to take the one topic for AOB as part of 6.2.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The Minutes of Meeting on 5th June 2016 were approved for JM to sign.

3. Matters Arising

9.1 Luncheon Hut: It was noted that a thank you was sent to Birse Estate and the option to use the Hut again next June confirmed.

4. Finances

4.1 Management Accounts: The previously circulated tables of income / expenditure for the first half of the year were discussed. It was noted that a significant level of net expenditure is often the case at this stage of the year. It was noted that the £18K FCS planting grant was received in July and that a donation from BTCo of £10K or more is anticipated before the end of the year.

5. Administration

5.1 Trustees: It was noted that due to work commitments Mark White has had to resign as a Trustee. It was agreed that, while BCT still has its traditional number of five Trustees, consideration should be given to co-opting at least one more Trustee if there are appropriate candidates. It was agreed that RC will speak to Eoghan Cameron about possibly becoming involved with BTCo.

5.2 Managers: It was confirmed that David Hector is now the Mills Manager and agreed that DB should be appointed as Project Manager for Finzean Community Woods and Path. It was recognised that the Archive needs a project manager and that involving more people as project managers is potentially good for BCT.

5.3 Membership: It was noted that 15 months after membership registration started, BCT has 381 signed up members, representing 60% of those on the Electoral Register. It was agreed that more members are needed in the Birse Area and confirmed that the target is to have 450 or more members by the end of the year.

5.4 Strategic Plan 2016-20: RC outlined a number of points about the Draft Plan which will be circulated after the meeting. It was noted that BCT's Schedule of Lands & Buildings will need to be updated to 14 sites in line with the Plan. It was agreed that (a) anyone with any questions about the Plan should contact RC direct; (b) Trustees will send feedback on the Draft Plan direct to RP by 26th August for circulation to all Trustees and (c) Trustees will meet on 31st August at 7.15 pm in the Archive Building to discuss the Draft Plan and proposals for consulting locally on the Draft Plan, once Trustees have an agreed version.

6. Properties

- 6.1 Finzean Community Path: It was noted that the new bench immediately below the School is now in place and that the family have been made aware that the bench might be moved within its current location should the need arise.
- 6.2 Finzean School Wood: It was noted that the John Forster Memorial Bench has been completed. It was agreed that DB will respond to an email from John Forbes regarding the 'untidiness' of the School Wood.
- 6.3 Mills: It was noted that all the necessary consents have been received for the planned repair of the remaining weir on the north side, and that it is hoped work will start soon while the river is low. It was noted that blank blades might be used to replace the circular saws in the Sawmill, now that they are out of use due to health and safety. It was noted that a draft disposition is due to be prepared for the land acquisition at the Sawmill.
- 6.4 Forest of Birse Commony: The previously circulated records of RC's meetings in the Forest with Birse Estate (23rd June) and Ballogie Estate (12th July) were endorsed. It was confirmed that BCT will be planting the pine area originally scheduled for 2016 in November, and that it is not expected that the FCS planting grant will be received by the end of the year.
- 6.5 Slewdrum Forest: It was noted that the river bank had been restored following the flooding in January and that it is planned to update the 1954 Agreement over the Fishing Track. It was reported that the Big Lottery Fund end of grant report for the land acquisition had been approved, but that progress with the project indicators would be checked at the end of the year. It was noted that BCo are due to start thinning part of the Forest in late August.

7. Any Other Business

- 7.1 Birsemore Loch Path: It was noted that Stuart Young had said he would respond about repairs to the Loch Path, but there had been no response from him. It was agreed that DB will ask Norman Kellas whether Birse Estate has plans to repair the path.
- 7.2 Tolcarne: The proposed new house beside BCT's land at Finzean Sawmill was considered and it was agreed to email FCC regarding BCT's concern to protect the heritage environment of the Mills.
- 7.3 Glen Dye Wind Farm: The previously circulated submission from BCT to Coriolis about the proposed wind farm, was endorsed.

8. Board Meetings and Visits

- 8.1 Board Meetings: It was noted that Trustees will meet on 31st August to discuss the Draft Strategic Plan and confirmed that the next Board Meeting will be on 20th September. It was agreed that the following Board Meetings will be on 18th October and 15th November, both at 7.15 pm in the Archive Building.
- 8.2 Board Site Visits: It was confirmed there will be site visits on 25th September (Balfour and Slewdrum) and 2nd October (Finzean sites).

Signed  Date 20/9/16