

Birse Community Trust

Minute of Board Meeting

20th September 2016

Trustees Present: Jean McLeod (Chair), Doug Boyle, Guy Haslam and John Hector;

Also Present: Jane Winton (Administrator), Robin Callander (Adviser)

Apologies: Jonathan Kitching (Trustee), Robert Dinnie (Patron), Rick Paul (Secretary to Board)

1. Introduction

1.1 The Agenda was confirmed and apologies were noted from JK, RD and RP. There was one item noted for AOB.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The Minutes of Meeting on 16th August 2016 were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising

5.1 Trustees: It was noted that RC received a positive response when he contacted Eoghan Cameron about becoming involved with BTCo.

5.4 Strategic Plan: It was noted that the updated Schedule of Lands & Buildings previously circulated will be added to the website.

6.2 Finzean School Wood: It was noted that DB wrote to John Forbes explaining that the Trustees were due to make an annual site visit to the School Wood and that they would look at the points he raised.

7.2 Tolcarne: It was noted that BCT's concerns about the house development were sent direct to the Planners due to time constraints.

4. Administration

4.1 Trustees: It was noted that two possible candidates in Ballogie for co-option as Trustees had been identified. It was agreed that they should be approached.

4.2 Project Managers: DB's appointment as Project Manager of Finzean Community Woods and Path was confirmed. It was noted that RP and JW are responsible for BCT's central coordination and confirmed that monthly managers' meetings with DB, RC, RP and JW will start in October.

4.3 Membership: It was noted that the publicly available Electoral Register is only updated annually to 1st December and then becomes available to the public in early Spring, which allows JW to update BCT lists before AGM mailing.

4.4 Strategic Plan: The previously circulated Plan and Summary of Key Points were endorsed, subject to correcting some typos. It was agreed that one page summaries of Governance and Resources would be added to the previously circulated separate Activities section, together with the Forward View page. It was agreed that the revised Activities section will go on website, along with the full version of the Strategic Plan and Summary of Key Points. The previously circulated list of key messages and questions for consulting on the Plan was endorsed. It was agreed that an A4 letter would be sent to all households focusing on the Activities section and inviting them to comment on the Strategic Plan and to attend an open meeting in Finzean Hall in the second half of November. It was confirmed that the Plan will also be discussed at the BPLG meeting on 8th November as planned.

5. Properties

5.1 Finzean Community Woods: It was reported that BCT had been contacted by Paul Tanner, FCC Chairman, about a proposal to clean the ditch north of the road in the Community Woods and that BCT had discussed this with the Estate. It was noted that BCT

had replied to FCC stating that, while BCT would not be making a financial contribution, it would liaise and co-operate with Finzean Estate if the proposal went ahead.

5.2 Finzean Community Path: It was confirmed that sections of the path need to be sprayed and noted that the hedge beside the path along the graveyard needs trimmed. It was agreed that DB will follow up both matters.

5.3 Birse Kirk / Hall: The draft minutes of ETBK/BACA/BCT meeting were noted, including the need for maintenance and repair work on Birse Kirk.

5.4 Mills: It was noted that progress is being made with the draft deposition for the additional land at the Sawmill and that BCT has applied to MAP for a grant for 50% of the legal costs. It was noted that the north side of the Sawmill weir has been repaired and that the plan is to repair the south side as soon as possible. It was noted that the Demigryphon Trust is to contribute £1K to the south side repairs and agreed that an application to the MacRobert Trust should be investigated as a possible source for the remaining £1.5K of the estimated cost. It was confirmed that BCT is going ahead with the repairs whether or not it secures further grant funding for the work, recognising that the estimated £2,500 cost may prove to be more or less. David Duncan's recent discussions with GH and JM were noted and it was agreed that RC will draft a letter to be sent to DD by JM on behalf of the Trustees.

6. Other Topics

6.1 Birsemore Loch Path: It was noted that RC has contacted Stuart Young of Dunecht Estate again about the path and heard that SY is due to speak with Norman Kellas about it today. It was agreed that, if there is no progress soon, the issue should be raised with Birse & Ballogie Community Council to see if they will follow it up as the more appropriate body.

6.2 Rural Housing Fund: It was noted RC is due to attend a RHF seminar in Inverurie on 29th September.

6.3 Legacies: It was noted JW is due to attend a DTAS legacy seminar in Glasgow on 6th October.

6.4 Scottish Rural Parliament: It was noted BCT is involved in the SRP site visits on 8th October.

6.5 Aberdeen University: It was noted a visit to BCT by Masters students is due on 12th October.

6.6 Forestry Policy Group: The previously circulated FPG case study report on BCT was noted and that RC will give a presentation about BCT to the FPG in Birnam in November.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Glendye Wind Farm: It was noted that BCT has supplied a copy of its letter to Coriolis about the proposed wind farm to Sam Wylde in Strachan.

8. Board Meetings and Visits

8.1 Board Meetings: It was confirmed that the next meetings are on 18th October and 15th November at 7.15pm in the Archive Building.

8.2 Site Visits: It was noted that for the forest site visit on 25th September to meet at Balfour Main Entrance at 2pm and for the site visit on 2nd October to meet at Old School at 2pm.



18th October 2016

Signed.....

Date.....