

**Birse Community Trust**  
**Minute of Board Meeting**  
**18<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

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

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

Apologies: Jonathan Kitching (Trustee)

**1. Introduction**

1.1 The Agenda was confirmed and apologies were noted from JK. There were two items noted for AOB.

1.2 It was noted that following the Trustees Forests Visit comments will be passed onto BTCo, and that following the Finzean Sites Visit, there will be further discussion about maintenance work required to the Old School and Archive buildings.

**2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings**

2.1 The Minutes v2 of the Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016 were approved and signed.

**3. Matters Arising**

6.4 Scottish Rural Parliament: It was noted that the SRP group visit took place on 8<sup>th</sup> October and that, as a result, the National Park Community Support officer is due to visit BCT.

6.5 Aberdeen University: It was noted that the visit by Masters students took place on 12<sup>th</sup> October.

**4. Finances**

4.1 Management Accounts: JW reported that, while the tables showed net expenditure of £9.3K, BCT had since received a £10K donation from BTCo. It was discussed that, while BCT's expenditure in the final quarter could be around £8K or so depending on a number of variables, the Community planting grant is not expected until early 2017 and it is unclear at this stage whether BTCo may be able to make another donation this year. It was also noted that BCT could have a net expenditure of £5-6K over the year and still potentially meet its target of

£30K or more of unrestricted funds at the year end. The previously circulated financial tables for the year to 30<sup>th</sup> Sept were endorsed.

4.2 Endowment Fund: With the current term coming to an end on 9<sup>th</sup> November, it was agreed that JW would look into other interest rate accounts.

**5. Administration**

5.1 Trustees: It was noted that no contact had yet been made with possible new Trustees. Further to a Trustees only meeting earlier in the month, it was noted that a list of Trustees, Project Managers and the Sites they oversee will be compiled. It was agreed that RP will circulate BCT's existing letters of appointment to Trustees.

5.2 Management Meeting: It was noted that JW held a first meeting with RP,RC,DB on 10<sup>th</sup> October to help set agenda for this meeting and ensure all current topics were covered.

5.3 Strategic Plan: The draft Plan and Summary of Key Points were endorsed, subject to a typo, noting that the ability to deliver the elements of the plan will be driven by the resources of the Trust. It was agreed that the Activities Section will be re-labelled as the Consultation Document with minor other amendments. It was agreed the wording of the A4 letter to be sent to households on BCT stationery will be further refined. It was agreed that GH will prepare a short introduction powerpoint for the open meetings and circulate a draft. It was confirmed that RC will email Finzean, Birse and Ballogie Estates about the Plan and then discuss it with them at the meeting of the estates and BCT on 23<sup>rd</sup> November.

5.4 Birse Parish Liaison Group: The topics for the agenda for the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November were endorsed. It was agreed that DB and GH will attend for BCT and that GH will lead on the Strategic Plan item.

5.5 Website: It was noted that the new Recent Additions link is now on the homepage. It was noted that it is planned to put BCT's leases to BCTCo on the website for ease of access.

5.6 Facebook: It was agreed that DB and JW would investigate the creation of a BCT Facebook page.

## 6. Properties

6.1 Fungle: It was noted that RC aims to raise the proposed revised route at the Deeside Access Group on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

6.2 Corsedardar: It was agreed that BCA would be asked to lay the wreath at Remembrance Sunday event on 13<sup>th</sup> November.

6.3 Mills: It was confirmed that David Duncan had been contacted about the current position with repairs to the mills and that, if weather permits, the south side of weir should be finished by end of year. GH reported that he has applied for £1.5k from "Wheels for Good" towards that work. It was confirmed that the current proposal is to restore the middle of the weir to its full height for water to the mills and that BCT expects the repaired weir to incorporate a fish ladder. It was noted that there will be further discussion about plans for the middle section, including funding.

6.4 Community Path: It was noted that all the points have been addressed since last meeting and that the BCT/FCA walk is due to take place on 29<sup>th</sup> October.

6.5 Slewdrum: The previously circulated application to install an EE telecommunication mast at a proposed site in Slewdrum, was discussed. It was agreed that BCT agrees in principle to the mast, subject to the terms of the arrangement. It was noted that RC is in contact with J&H Mitchell about EE's proposed Heads of Agreement, and agreed that RC should act as BCT's agent in the discussions with EE's agents. It was noted that EE will submit a planning application for the mast at a relatively early stage in the discussions. It was agreed that BCT should serve notice to BCTCo of BCT's intention to resume the land for the mast site from BCTCo's lease.

## 7. Other Topics

7.1 Rural Housing Fund: RC attended the RHF seminar in Inverurie on 29<sup>th</sup> September and will circulate a powerpoint which he is due to receive. It was noted that the grant scheme seemed encouraging and agreed that this will be discussed further at a future meeting.

7.2 Legacies: JW attended the DTAS legacy seminar in Glasgow on 6<sup>th</sup> October and will receive a powerpoint to circulate. It was agreed to consider including an item about legacies to BCT in the Annual Report.

7.3 Deer Management: The previously circulated BCT cull table to 30<sup>th</sup> September was noted. It was also noted that BCT is hosting the BP DMG autumn meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> October.

7.4 Birse Loch Path: It was noted that there has been no progress with path and that it will be raised at BPLG for B2C2 to consider further.

## 8. Board Meetings

8.1 Board Meetings: It was confirmed that the next meeting is on 15<sup>th</sup> November at 7.15pm in the Archive Building and that a further meeting will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> December after the Strategic Plan consultation period has ended.

*John H McLeod*

Signed.....

15th November 2016

Date.....