

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting

31st October 2017

Trustees Present: Guy Haslam (Chair), Doug Boyle, John Hector, Jonathan Kitching, Allan (Hedge) Shand;

In Attendance: Davie Hector (Mills Manager), Rick Paul (Secretary to Board), Jane Winton (Administrator);

1. Introduction

1.1 The Agenda was confirmed and no apologies were noted. There were four items for AOB.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The Minutes of Meeting on 25th September 2017 were approved and signed.

3. Presentation on the Mills

3.1 DH gave a short presentation on the Mills. With Robin Callander stepping back from the Mills, DH explained that he would need assistance with the Strategic Plan and the Job Description. GH offered to meet with DH and review the 2 documents and make any necessary changes and to also provide assistance where required. The 'Friends of the Mills' idea was well received, with the proviso that a clear set of rules is laid down as to what volunteers can and cannot do whilst on site before they do any work on the site.

4. Matters Arising

4.1 Management Accounts: GH explained the income/expenditure projections for Q3 2017, including the plan to transfer funds from the Community account into the general fund, which was agreed by the Trustees. At present the Trust looks like making a profit in 2017 without a donation from BTCo. However JW and DB reported that BTCo have recently completed a thinning and therefore plan to give a donation to BCT in 2017, which would be put in the Endowment Fund.

4.2 School Wood Bench: It was noted that the new bench has been assembled in position.

5. Properties and Projects

5.1 FoB Community: There has been no progress on the re-routing of the Fungle path as this is waiting for RC to attend the annual meeting with Birse and Ballogie Estates. The Deer Management meeting was held on 26th October.

5.2 Slewdrum: The wayleaves for the new mast are agreed. Maroc orienteering are holding an event on 15th November.

5.3 Finzean Mills: GH's application to 'Tesco Bags for Life' was successful which guarantees BCT a minimum of £1000. GH explained that he planned to use some of the money to put up an information board in the car park opposite the Saw Mill with the remainder going to maintaining the Mills. GH to arrange to post on POOT and JW to post on Facebook.

GH had discussed the issue of children on the site with the community policing officer and it was agreed to monitor children playing on the site and should there be any further incursions, the Trust would ask him to speak to the family to reinforce the dangers of playing on the site.

5.4 Archive: Sian's interim report was discussed and it was agreed that GH and JH would set up a meeting with Sian to discuss the way ahead. The final recommendations are expected in the New Year. JK made the point that this would be a good area to show the community prior to the AGM in May.

5.5 Primary School Project: There has been no progress with the proposed use of the old school by Finzean School as we are waiting for the fire inspection from Aberdeenshire Council.

5.6 Playpark Proposal: B2C2 were approached to bring this up with the Council. Unfortunately it has a very low priority and is unlikely to happen.

5.7 Birse Graveyard: GH had discussed the proposal for the community to own Birse Graveyard with B2C2, but there was no community support for this idea and so it would not be followed up.

5.8 Finzean to Potarch Path: GH updated the meeting on the option of creating a path between Finzean to Potarch. This will be discussed at the Finzean Estate/Ballogie Estate meeting in January.

6. Administration

6.1 RC's email of 1/10/17: Trustees discussed the areas which RC was stepping back from in order to ensure that there were no gaps and concluded that major points were being covered.

6.2 BPLG and Meeting with B2C2: The BPLG will take place on 7th November at Birse Hall. AS, DB and possibly GH will attend for BCT. JW, RP will attend for BACA. The 16th October meeting organized by B2C2 was attended by GH, AS, DB and RP.

6.3 2017 Action Plan: GH went through the 2017 annual plan and it was concluded that the majority of actions are either completed or in hand.

6.4 Communications: It was agreed to maintain the phone line at The Old School, but cancel the broadband contract.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Site Visits: The Community site visit will be on Sunday 19th November, meet 1 p.m. Sawmill. The following site visit will take place on Sunday 26th November. Meet 1 p.m. Balfour.

7.2 Remembrance: 12th November, 3 p.m. Corsedardar, 3:30 p.m. Birse Kirk. RP to liaise with GH re order of service. RP to ask Jane Bennett to post on POOT. JW to post on Facebook.

7.3 Finzean Christmas Fair: Trustees decided against taking a table at the fair.

7.4 Finzean Community Woods: DB raised the issue of the height of the trees near the Finzean Community Walk as they were blocking the light for the nearby houses. He will contact RC to see if there were any limitations on thinning them and if not then look at producing a plan to thin them.

8. Board Meetings and Visits

8.1 Board Meetings: The last meeting for 2017 will be on Tuesday 28th November at 7.15 pm in the Archive Room.



28/11/2017

Signed.....

Date.....