

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting 20th February 2014

Trustees Present: Jean McLeod (Chair), Doug Boyle, Anita Van der Wal
Apologies: Jonathan Kitching,
In Attendance: Robert Dinnie (Patron), Jane Winton (Book-keeper), Robin Callander (Adviser), Rick Paul (Secretary to Board).

1. Introduction

There was one apology and no items were noted for A.O.B.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings.

The Minutes of Meeting on 29th January 2014 were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising.

- Fire Safety Check: It was confirmed that RP completed the Finzean Old School fire check for February and that the water in both buildings is turned off for the winter.

4.2 Website: It was confirmed that Trustee information on the website is now up to date.

4.5 Electoral Register: It was noted that RP will purchase the new register when it is published in early March and liaise with JW to establish the parish mailing list.

4. Administration.

4.1 Memorandum and Articles: The previously circulated amendments and special resolution were agreed for putting to the AGM. It was agreed to consider whether BCT should increase the number of elected Trustees from up to five, to up to seven.

4.2 Annual Report: It was noted that the Report is due to go to the printer in early April for mailing by 1st May and that any suitable photographs for inclusion would be helpful.

4.3 AGM: It was noted that it is important to have a good attendance at this year's AGM. It was agreed that JW will investigate whether local Highland dancers might perform.

4.4 Strategic Plan: It was noted that if no further comments are received from Trustees on the Schedule of Land and Buildings 2014, this will be considered as endorsed.

4.5 BTCO: The previously circulated meeting minutes were noted. It was agreed to see if JK might be able to represent Trustees at BTCO's AGM on 13th March.

4.6 European Funds: It was noted that Aberdeenshire Council will be holding a meeting in Finzean Hall on 27th February about plans for the successor to Leader funding.

5. Finances.

5.1 Management Accounts: JW tabled additional end of year financial tables showing figures for previous years and a budget for 2014. These were endorsed.

5.2 Annual Accounts: It was noted that Draft Accounts are due from Bain Henry Reid by the end of February with the accountants questions about points to be clarified.

5.3 Endowment Fund: It was agreed that JW should continue to investigate Open Ended Investment Companies and other possible investment options for BCT as a charity..

6. Properties.

6.1 Finzean Mills: It was noted that the timber has been cut at the Sawmill to repair the Kiln roof and the lade, though round posts are still required to support the lade. David Hector is due to repair the roof before May.

6.2 Balfour and Slewdrum Forests: It was noted that there have been no further discussions about the potential land purchases.

6.3 Forest of Birse Commonly: RC reported that he had a positive meeting with Stuart Young of Birse Estates, discussing topics related to the Commonly on the north side of Birse Castle including tree felling, quarrying, sign removal, boundaries and tree planting.

6.4 Community Woods: RC reported that it has agreed with Finzean Estate that BCT will take on the maintenance of the planned path from the Hall car park to the new housing, on the understanding that the path will be extended in due course to link to the Powlair road.

6.5 Birse Kirk: AVdW reported that the Kirk of Session has decided that she may now, at her discretion as Minister, conduct funerals and weddings in Birse Kirk when a larger capacity is needed than Finzean Church and also when the participants have a strong local connection. Trustees welcomed this development.

7. Other Projects.

7.1 Old Schools Project: It was noted that the Scottish Land Fund has recently confirmed after over two months, that BCT is eligible to apply to the Fund for a grant towards the costs of this project.

7.2 Mountain Biking: It was agreed that it would be best for JK to discuss this topic with BTCo as it manages the forests. It was confirmed by DB as a BTCo Director, that JK should be invited to the BTCo AGM and Board Meeting on 13th March.

7.3 Archive: It was agreed to have a discussion of current progress with the Archive at the Board Meeting on 27th March.

8. Any Other Business.

-

9. Board Meetings and Visits.

Future Board Meetings: It was agreed that the next Board Meetings will be on Thursday 27th March at 7:15 (*note new time*) and Thursday 24th April at 7:15pm, both in Birse Hall.

Signed.....

Date.....