

# BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

## Minutes of Board Meeting 27th March 2014

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

### 1. Introduction

There was one apology and two items were noted for A.O.B.

### 2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings.

The Minutes of Meeting on 20th February 2014 were approved and signed.

### 3. Matters Arising.

- Fire Safety Check: It was confirmed that RP completed the Finzean Old School fire check for March.

4.5 Electoral Register: The copy of the Register has been received and was passed to JW to establish the parish mailing list.

### 4. Administration.

4.1 Memorandum & Articles: It was agreed that it could be beneficial for BCT if the number of elected Trustees was increased from 'up to five' to 'up to seven', while keeping the number of potential co-options at two. It was agreed to include this change in the existing Special Resolution to change the M&A's, to be put to the AGM this year. It was agreed that RP will liaise with RC over writing to Colin Liddell about this proposed change.

4.2 AGM: It was confirmed that the date for the AGM will be June 4th. It was agreed that the Invitation and Reminder pages needed to be refreshed, and that the Agenda should include both the Special Resolution item and an item about the re-appointment of the Patron. It was agreed that there will be a power-point presentation by RC, Highland dancing, a display of Paul Chapman's camera trap photographs and a display of items from the Archive. It was agreed that RP will contact Dorothy Dinnie over the refreshments.

4.3 Annual Report: It was noted that a draft text for the Report will be e-mailed to Trustees for comment before the next Board Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April. It was agreed that JW will pass the Accounts pages to Ellie Flather and that RP will let RC know the number of last year's Annual Report that are still left. It was noted that RP needs the Annual Reports back from the printer by 9<sup>th</sup> May for the AGM mailing.

4.4 BTCO: The Trustees endorsed the previously circulated BTCO Annual Accounts and Annual Report as agreed at BTCO's AGM on 13<sup>th</sup> March. It was noted that David Younie retired then as a Director of BTCO and that a replacement will be considered later in the summer.

4.5 JHM Seminar: It was noted that no Trustees will be attending the JHM seminar, as it is on the same date as the next Board Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> April.

### 5. Finances.

5.1 Annual Accounts 2013: The Annual Accounts previously circulated by JW were approved and signed.

5.2 Endowment Funds: It was noted that investment options are still due to be investigated further.

**6. Properties.**

6.1 Bucket Mill: It was noted that the Kiln Room roof is expected to be repaired on schedule in April, to be followed later in the summer by the repairs to the lade.

6.2 Balfour Forest: It was agreed that JK, DB and RC will meet in the summer to investigate the potential for an informal off-track mountain bike route in the Forest. It was noted that Birse Estate will be using fox hounds on Birse and Balfour Estates on Monday March 31<sup>st</sup> and that BCo has agreed with the Estate, firstly, that the hounds can transit between the Estates through Balfour Forest and secondly, that the hounds can follow a fox into Balfour Forest from other lands if the hounds are in hot pursuit of the fox.

6.3 Forest of Birse Commonly: RC reported that this year's pine planting in the area burnt by the 2003 fire has been completed, and that the insurance needs to be updated accordingly. It was noted that a possible archaeological site discovered in the planting area, is to be investigated further. It was noted that BCT has been in contact with Birse Estate about the repairs needed to the Forest of Birse Kirk.

6.4 Fire Plans for Forests: It was noted that BCo has reviewed its Fire Plans for Balfour and Slewdrum. It was agreed that JW will let RC know if she has a copy of the Commonly Pinewoods Fire Plan. It was noted that the annual helicopter authorisations forms from the Fire and Rescue Service have been signed for the Commonly and Slewdrum, but that none has been received for Balfour yet.

**7. Other Projects.**

7.1 Archive: It was agreed that RP and JM will discuss re-starting activity in the Archive for material for the AGM display, and with the view to having an exhibition at the Archive again this September. It was also agreed to discuss further the idea of a BCT 'Open Weekend' involving the Archive and other BCT sites.

**8. Any Other Business.**

8.1 Local Government Boundary Review: RC reported that the Boundary Commission for Scotland has started a review of local government electoral arrangements, including ward boundaries. The issues over the last ward boundary changes were recalled and it was agreed that the Review is an important matter to consider. It was agreed that, given the Review's timetable, this topic should be considered again later in the summer and that BCT will raise the topic at the next Birse Parish Liaison Group meeting.

8.2 Bushcraft Ventures: RC reported that he had been consulted informally by Andrew Farquharson about this company using land near the Bucket Mill and that he had expressed concern on behalf of BCT about the company basing its activities in such a sensitive area.

**9. Board Meetings and Visits.**

Board Meetings: It was agreed that the next Board Meetings will be on:-  
Thursday, April 24th in Birse Hall at 7:15pm  
Thursday, May 29th in Birse Hall at 7:15pm  
Thursday June 26th in Finzean Old School at 7:15pm

Signed.....

Date.....