

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting

24th April 2014

Trustees: 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 from RD and two items were noted for A.O.B.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings.

The Minutes of Meeting on 27th March 2014 were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising.

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

6.3 Commonly Pinewoods: It was noted that insurance for the new planting is still to be updated.

4. Administration.

4.1 Annual Report 2013: The previously circulated draft Trustees Report to Members for the Annual Report was approved, subject to the addition of Trustees' names. A colour draft of the Annual Report was also endorsed.

4.2 Memorandum and Articles: The draft Special Resolution for the AGM was discussed. It was confirmed that the maximum term before a Trustee has to stand down should remain at 5 years. It was agreed that, if no Trustee is due to stand down on rotation and there is an existing vacancy for Trustee, then no Trustees should have to stand down. It was agreed that RC will discuss this with Colin Liddell with a view, subject to CL's advice, to incorporating a change to achieve that position in the current draft Special Resolution.

4.3 Patron: It was confirmed that Robert Dinnie had agreed to continue as Patron and it was agreed to appoint RD for another three year term from the AGM.

4.4 AGM 2014:

a) Agenda: It was agreed that RP will make a number of changes to the Draft Agenda and submit the revised version to Colin Liddell for comment and/or approval.

b) Trustees: It was confirmed that the Trustee Nomination Form is on the website and agreed that RC/RP will review the page 'About Becoming a Trustee'. The need to encourage appropriate nominations was noted.

c) Rest of Programme: It was confirmed that RC will do a 20 minute presentation followed by questions; that JW will organise the Highland Dancing; that JM and RP will organise an Archive Display; that RP will liaise with Paul Chapman over a display of camera trap photographs; and that RP will organise sales / free copies of BCT goods and publications, including previous Annual Reports. It was confirmed that Dorothy Dinnie (Birsebeg) has agreed to provide the refreshments.

d) Membership: JW reported that she has established the mailing list for BCT's membership from the Electoral Register, and is currently setting it up so that each BCT member at an address will be named on the envelope label. It was noted that there are currently 611 voters / BCT members on the Electoral Registers at 298 addresses, with an accurate 50:50 split still in the numbers of members and households in Finzean and in Birse and Ballogie.

e) *First Mailing*: This is due to be posted to all members / households by the 10th May, and will include the Annual Report, the Invitation to the AGM and the formal Agenda incorporating the Special Resolutions. It was agreed that the Invitation contents and format should be reviewed. It was also agreed that it would be good to have an explanation of the changes in the Resolutions on BCT's website and available by email / post.

f) *Second Mailing*: This is due to be emailed on 28th May using the POOT email list.

5. Finances.

5.1 Annual Accounts 2013: It was noted that OSCAR had asked about BCT's low expenditure compared to income when BCT's Accounts were submitted, and that JW had answered this by explaining that there had been a large donation late in the year.

5.2 Management Accounts: The previously circulated Account Balances and Income and Expenditure table for the first quarter of 2014 were discussed and endorsed.

6. Properties.

6.1 Finzean Mills: It was noted that Davie Hector is currently working on the Bucket Mill Kiln Roof, and that the Tolcarne planning application near the Sawmill, has been approved by Aberdeenshire Council.

6.2 Finzean Community Woods: It was noted that the Harpers' Bench, built by Tom Ironside, is ready to be sited beside the Community Path across from the Farm Shop.

6.3 Fire Plans: It was noted that there had been a period of high fire risk in the Community Pinewoods over the Easter weekend, although rain has now reduced the risk. It was noted that, while the Community Fire Plan needs updating, the key information relating to responding to a wildfire is in the other two Forest Fire Plans.

6.4 Deer Control: RC gave an initial report of the deer cull in Birse parish during the year 2013-14, noting that the parish cull of red and roe deer had been 595 with 260 of those being shot in BCT's three Forests. It was noted that the annual report of the Birse Parish Deer Management Group will be circulated in early June.

7. Other Projects.

7.1 Archive: It was noted that RP is arranging an initial meeting with JM and Maree Christie with a view to organising a display for the AGM.

8. Any Other Business.

8.1 Endowment Fund: It was agreed that the Fund Policy Statement should be put on BCT's website following the AGM. It was agreed that RC will seek guidance from Colin Liddell on BCT's options for investing the Fund.

8.2 Old School: JW reported a request to lease the Old School Meeting Room as an upholstery workshop. It was agreed that BCT will not be in a position to consider that or similar requests until the position over the Old Schools Project is clearer.

9. Board Meetings and Visits.

Board Meetings: It was confirmed that the next Board Meetings will be on:-

Thursday, May 29th in Birse Hall at 7:15pm

Thursday June 26th in Finzean Old School at 7:15pm

Signed.....

Date.....