

# BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

## Minutes of Board Meeting 29th May 2014

Trustees: Jean McLeod (Chair), Doug Boyle, Anita Van der Wal, Jonathan Kitching

In Attendance: Robert Dinnie (Patron), Rick Paul (Secretary to Board), Jane Winton (Book-keeper), Robin Callander (Adviser).

### 1. Introduction

There were no apologies and three items were noted for A.O.B.

### 2. Minutes of Previous Board Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting on 24th April 2014 were approved and signed.

### 3. Matters Arising

3.1 Finzean Old School: It was confirmed that fire safety checks for May were carried out.

3.2 Actions List: It was noted that RP will be maintaining a list of outstanding actions from points decided at Board Meetings, rather than having a lengthening list of repeat items under Matters Arising. RP circulated a list of actions still to be done from the Board's Minutes over the past year.

### 4. Administration

#### 4.1 AGM 2014:

(a) *Special Resolutions*: It was confirmed that the Explanation of the Resolutions was on the opening page of the BCT website, but without the date of the AGM. It was noted for next year that the Trustees Nomination Form could be brought forward to that page. RC explained the distinction between BCT's membership having 100% control of BCT as a company and 'owning' BCT as such, given that it is a charity.

(b) *Programme*: It was agreed that JM will handle Agenda items 1-3, JK items 3 and 4 with RC, DB items 6-9 and JM items 10-11. It was agreed that JK will lead in dealing with any 'difficult situation', involving RC if necessary. RC outlined the planned content of his presentation. It was confirmed that JW and JK will liaise over the arrangements for the Highland Dancers, including responsibility for introducing them after JM has ended the discussion session following RC's presentation. It was agreed that JW will consider an appropriate gift for the dancers. It was confirmed that Dorothy Dinnie will be doing the refreshments. It was agreed to have sheets on clip boards, where members can note an interest in a site visit to one or more of the Commonty, Balfour Forest, Slewdrum, the Soutar's Shop or mills.

(c) *Second Mailing*: It was confirmed this was emailed via POOT on 28th May.

4.2 Strategic Plan 2014-16: It was noted that RC will be referring in his AGM presentation to the planned the new Strategic Pan, including its three components of the Framework Document, Schedule of Lands & Buildings and Financial Tables 1999-2013. It was recalled that Trustees have already agreed the updated Schedule of Lands & Buildings (January 2014), which outlines the management plans for each site during 2014-16.

### 5. Properties

5.1 Bucket Mill: It was noted that there was a helpful site meeting on 5th May involving Stan Moyes, RC, Sian Loftus and David Hector. It was noted, however, that a number of factors have meant that progress with the repairs remains relatively slow.

5.2 Finzean Sawmill: It was agreed that RC will ask Finzean Estate at an appropriate opportunity, about the land beside the lade between the mid sluice gate and weir.

5.3 Finzean Old School: It was noted that DH is due to repair the wooden gate between the Old School and former School House, with the Bells donating half of the cost.

- 5.4 Balfour and Slewdrum Forests: It was noted that RC had met Hugh Cochran to discuss boundary adjustments and related sites at Balfour, while RC is due to follow up the previous contact with FCS about the proposed 5 hectares at Slewdrum.
- 5.5 Deer Control: It was noted that the Deer Management Report 2013-14 produce by BCT for the Birse Parish Deer Management Group, is due to be discussed by RC and Birse, Ballogie and Finzean Estates on 3rd June.

**6. Other Projects**

- 6.1 Archive; It was noted that material was being prepared for the exhibition at the AGM and that further progress with Archive project work will be considered after that.
- 6.2 Old Schools Project: It was noted that RC is due to have exploratory discussions about reviving this project, following the encouraging response from the Scottish Land Fund earlier in the year.

**7. Any Other Business**

- 7.1 Glenesk Trust: It was agreed to accept the invite to visit the Glenesk Trust and to invite them on a reciprocal visit to Birse. It was agreed that BCT will propose 28th or 29th June as a potential date for the BCT visit and send them three copies BCT's Annual Report.
- 7.2 Ballogie Community Association: It was noted that the BCA AGM is on 30th June and that RP will attend for BCT, possibly with RC. It was also noted that BCA's Potarch Bridge anniversary event is on 7th June.
- 7.3 Land Reform: It was noted that RC will be speaking with Birse, Ballogie and Finzean Estates next week after the deer meeting about his involvement with the Land Reform Review Group, as part of ensuring that the LRRG's report does not intrude into the positive local relationships between BCT and the Estates.

**8. Trustees Meetings**

- 8.1 Board Meetings: The next meeting was confirmed as 26<sup>th</sup> June, Old School at 7.15pm. It was noted that dates for the Trustees site visits will be discussed at that meeting.

Signed.....

Date.....