Birse Community Trust

Minutes of Board Meeting
11th August 2015

Trustees Present: Anita Stutter (Acting Chair), Doug Boyle, John Hector, Mark White.
Apologies: Jean McLeod (Chair), Jonathan Kitching
In Attendance: Robert Dinnie (Patron), Jane Winton (Book-keeper), Robin Callander (Adviser), Rick Paul (Secretary to Board)

1. Introduction

1.1 The Agenda was confirmed. There was two apologies and two items noted for Any Other Business.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The minutes of meeting on 14th June 2015 were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Finzean Old School: It was noted that the fire safety checks for June and July had been done.

3 (4.1) Endowment Fund: It was confirmed that the investment account will be operational with in a week and a welcome pack will be received.

8.1 Luncheon Hut: It was confirmed that a thank you was sent to Birse Estate and that permission has been request to use the Hut again next June.

4. Finances

4.1 Management Accounts: The income and expenditure documents for the second quarter were distributed and noted. It was agreed that more needs to be done to generate other income. It was agreed that RP will send copy of 2015 budget to MW.

5. Administration

5.1 Membership: It was noted that the new membership arrangements had been approved by OSCR and the website had been updated. It was also noted that 56 applications have been received to date. It was agreed that JW will send alphabetical list of applications and a copy of the application form to Trustees so that people can be signed up by word of mouth. It was agreed that, depending on progress by the year end, a mail drop will be considered at beginning of 2016.

6. Properties

6.1 Slewdrum: It was noted that the draft title map had a wrong measurement for the forest road boundary and that, following a site visit with FCS, BCT is waiting for a revised map and boundary definition. . It was also noted that a letter of congratulating BCT on its Lottery grant had been received from MP Stewart Donaldson. It was noted that a consent form will be signed to allow SNH access to remove croys from River Dee later in the month.

6.2 Finzean School Wood: It was noted that DB and RC had a meeting with Guy Haslam, Mel Shand & Rob Strachan on 19th June about the proposed memorial for John Forster and are awaiting a response from them.

6.3 Mills: It was noted that a woodland project on bobbin mills in northern Scotland has produced a list of Deeside bobbin and turning mills, which sets the Finzean Mills in a clearer local context. It was also noted that BCT had signed a location agreement before the filming for 'Moon Dogs' on 7th August and that the week before, a professional photographer had taken videos and stills of the mills in operation as part of a National Museums of Scotland project on water power for a refurbished gallery.

6.4 Forest of Birse Commonty: It was noted that RC had met with SY on 2nd July and discussed the topics mentioned at BCT's 14th June Meeting. It was also noted that an updated archaeological survey report for the Forest of Birse is now on BCT's website. A map of the areas proposed for planting broadleaved woodlands outwith the Commonty Pinewoods area was discussed and endorsed. It was noted that a trail biker was seen in the Commonty Pinewoods on 28th July and the registration number reported to the police.

7. Other Projects

7.1 The Fungle: A map of the proposed improved route at Ballochan was discussed and endorsed. It was noted that a copy has been sent to SY as a basis for further discussion and that RC is writing some historical notes about the Fungle as part of the proposal.

7.2 Deer: The previously circulated BP DMG Report on Deer Management 2014-15 was noted. It was also noted that BCT and the three estates now share the administrative costs of the BP DMG, including producing the report.

7.3 Members Site Visits: It was noted that RP will contact AB to get a list of the members on the Spring visits and discuss plans for Autumn visits.

7.4 Art Aboyne 2015: It was noted that BCT is trying to sell 6 Farquharson prints at the Art Aboyne Exhibition.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Obituaries: It was noted that AS in her role as Minister of the Parish is willing to obtain eulogies for people who have lived all or most of their life in the parish for the parish archive.

8.2 Address: It was noted that when searching for BCT's address on the internet, the answer given is incorrect. It was agreed that RP will look into this.

9. Board Meetings and Visits

9.1 Board Meetings: It was confirmed that future meetings will be on the second Tuesday of each month and that the September meeting will be held in the archive. It was noted that DB & MW agreed to attend the ETBK/BCT/BACA meeting on 27th August.

9.2 Site Visits: It was noted that RP will set up internet correspondence to organise Trustee annual site visits on Sunday afternoons. It was also noted that JW will email fire maps and monthly rota for Trustees to assist with monitoring visits to Balfour and Slewdrum Forests.

Signed…….

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