

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting 26th August 2014

Trustees: Jean McLeod (Chair), Doug Boyle, Anita Stutter, Jonathan Kitching;

Apologies: Robert Dinnie (Patron),

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

1. Introduction

1.1 The Agenda was confirmed, one apology noted and one item noted for AOB.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 Minutes of Meeting on 26th June 2014 were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Old School: It was confirmed that the fire safety checks were completed for July and August.

6.2 Deer Management: It was noted that the BP DMG Operating Framework was circulated.

4. Administration

4.1 Board Actions List: The current position with each of the topics on the list was noted briefly.

4.2 Finances: The tables of Income/Expenditure to 30th June were discussed including the deficit to date, the balance between project and administration expenditures, and the prospect of a donation from BTCo later in the year

4.3 Land Purchases: It was noted that no valuation has been received so far for the land at Slewdrum and that the discussions with Balfour Estate have not been taken further forward yet, pending that valuation.

4.4 Memorandum & Articles: The previously circulated letter from the Scottish Land Fund, the advice from Colin Liddell and the briefing from RC were discussed. It was agreed, firstly, that BCT should change from its current inclusive approach, to its voting membership being those on the Electoral Register who have explicitly agreed to be BCT members. It was agreed secondly, to do this by maintaining everyone on the Electoral Register as a BCT member, but divided between the signed up Ordinary Members and the others as Affiliate Members. It was agreed, thirdly, to make the changes at BCT's first ever Extraordinary General Meeting, with the EGM potentially in November. It was also agreed that RC will discuss the details of the proposed changes further with CL, that BCT will raise the topic at the BPLG on 23rd September, and that discussion at the next Board Meeting will include further consideration of the process by which BCT hopes to get as many current members as possible to sign-up.

4.5 Strategic Plan 2014-16: It was agreed to postpone plans for developing the Plan, given the community process that BCT will need to manage to implement 4.4 above. It was noted that BCT's Schedule of Lands and Buildings is already in place as part of the Plan and agreed that, with the other aspects of the Plan, the existing Plan is taken as extended for a year.

4.6 Birse Parish Liaison Group: It was agreed that the meeting will be on 23rd September and that JMc and DB will attend for BCT with RP and RC. It was agreed that RP will encourage good attendance from the other groups because of the significant topics to be discussed. It was noted that RP and RC will liaise over the Draft Agenda to be circulated for the meeting.

4.7 Ballogie Community Association: It was noted that RP had attended the recent BCA AGM on behalf of BCT and that RC had attended the BCA Marywell Path meeting on 11th August. It was agreed to make BCA and the Estate aware of the option of involving BCT in the lease arrangements, given liability issues and other factors.

5. Properties

- 5.1 Trustees Site Visits: The visits on 19th and 22nd July were noted, including RC's paper summarising points from the Three Forests visit.
- 5.2 Members Site Visits: It was noted that Aidan Bell has taken on organising the visits, with the first two planned for 14th September (Soutar's) and 28th September (Commonty). .
- 5.3 Forest of Birse Commonty: RC reported on the topics discussed at his meeting with Stuart Young, Birse Estate, on 20th August. It was noted that the sign south of Ballochran is to be removed from the Commonty by the Estate. However, it was agreed that RC will initiate some research to see the extent to which Ballogie and Birse Estates may have each taken land from the Commonty when recording titles related to Auchabrack and Ballochran in the Land Register. It was also noted that Birse Estate has said that it will start to monitor and maintain the Forest of Birse Kirk more regularly.
- 5.4 Finzean Mills: It was noted that while there has been no further progress with the lade repairs, BCT has applied to the Demigryphon Trust for a donation towards the costs. It was noted that it is hoped that Don Keenan may be able to help with some repairs needed at Sawmill, including to the roof of the smiddy and the sluice gate at the weir.
- 5.5 Finzean Old School: It was noted that RP, DB and potentially others would see about clearing the sediment and drains around the east end of the main building and also investigate the possible source of the roof leak affecting the 'file' room.
- 5.6 Birse Kirk / Hall: The agenda for the annual ETBK/BACA/BCT meeting on 28th August was noted. It was agreed that JMc and DB would attend for BCT with RP.

6. Projects

- 6.1 Native Woodland Survey of Scotland: It was noted that the report on the NWSS data for Birse parish is nearly complete. RC showed the parish maps to be included and it was confirmed that the next stage would be to produce a clearer map of the parish's native woodlands using additional local information.
- 6.2 Birse Parish Deer Management Group: It was noted that RC is currently drafting the next Birse Parish Deer Management Plan for consultation within the Group, with BTCo taking the lead on this for BCT.

7. Any Other Business

- 7.1 First World War: It was agreed that, as this year is the centenary of the start of the WW1, BCT will consult the other community groups at the BPLG meeting about marking the occasion as part of the Corsedardar Remembrance event or other initiatives. It was agreed that AS and RC will discuss the topic further, including reminding the School of the WW1 / Corsedardar material in the BCT Archive.

8. Board Meetings

- 8.1 Board Meetings: It was agreed that the next Board Meetings, all at 7.15 pm, will be
- Thursday, 25th September at Old School
Tuesday, 21st October at Old School
Tuesday, 11th November at Birse Hall

Signed.....

Date.....