Birse Community Trust

Minutes of Board Meeting
8th September 2015

Trustees Present: Jean McLeod (Chair), Anita Stutter, Doug Boyle, John Hector, Mark White.
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 one apology and four items noted for Any Other Business.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The minutes of Meeting on 11th August 2015 were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Finzean Old School: It was noted that the fire safety check for August had been done.

3 (4.1) Endowment Fund: It was confirmed that the investment account is now operational and that £50k should be transferred and held in a fixed term account for 1 yr.

8.1 Address: It was noted that BCT's postal address has now been corrected on the internet.

4. Administration

4.1 Membership: It was agreed that greater progress should be made signing up Members and that the target for the end of the year should be 200. It was agreed that JW will update the current list and circulate it to Trustees with the lists of those on the Electoral Register.

4.2 Strategic Plan: It was confirmed that the plan will be progressed over the next 3 months and agreed that it will be on the BPLG agenda for their views.

4.3 Birse Parish Liaison Group: The BCT representatives to the meeting on 22nd Sept were agreed and the proposed list of agenda topics endorsed.

5. Properties

5.1 Commonty Pinewoods: It was noted that the planting grant may be delayed due to the site being selected again for a FCS inspection. RC reported that the limited deer control by Ballogie Estate in the Pinewoods is still a serious issue and that there is also a need to re-assert the agreement limiting the Estate's use of snares and traps in the area.

5.2 Slewdrum: It was confirmed that BCT's interest in the management agreement over future erosion due to SNH's Pearls in Peril project has been taken into account. It was noted that discussions are continuing about the draft disposition for the 5 ha land purchase, to ensure that appropriate access rights are conveyed with the land.

5.3 Community Woods / Path: It was noted that RP has erected signs re dog fouling and that consideration is being given to using spray paint to highlight the issue. It was also noted that the path is still due to be sprayed this year, that a temporary agreement has been reached with the Thows about storing logs and that the annual consultation walk around the Woods is due to be arranged with FCA.

5.4 Birse Kirk / Hall: The previously circulated draft minutes of ETBK/BACA/BCT meeting on 27th August were noted.

5.5 Mills: It was noted that the Bucket Mill wheel had been repaired and the Mill operated again, while there are still some repairs due to be done this year at the Sawmill.

6. Other Projects

6.1 Art Aboyne 2015: It was confirmed that 4 out of the 6 Farquharson prints had been sold and that this had produced a small net income for BCT.

6.2 Members Site Visits: It was noted that no lists from the spring visits nor plans for autumn visits had been received from Aidan Bell. It was agreed that RC will contact AB again.

6.3 Archive: It was agreed that BCT needs to be able to access the existing register and catalogues of items in the Archive, as a matter of some urgency. It was agreed that RP will check the discs in the Archive store. It was agreed that all items received for the Archive need to be recorded and kept separate at this stage from the items already catalogued. It was agreed that all matters relating to the Archive should be agreed by RP and RC in the first instance, and that Trustees should be looking for someone to help manage the Archive.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Red Deer: RD informed the meeting for BCT's interest in local deer management, that red deer are causing serious damage to his barley and he is planning to arrange for someone to carry out culling to control the situation.

7.2 Community Play: AS declared an interest in the proposal for the play and left the room when this topic was discussed. It was agreed that BCT will maintain its existing policy as a charity in receipt of donations, of generally not making donations to other causes.

7.3 Remembrance Service: It was confirmed that this would be held on Sunday 8th November. It was agreed that JH will approach his son Andrew to be the Piper at the event.

7.4 Rabbit/Bugle: It was agreed that JW will find out the submission dates and that an item about some aspect of BCT's activities will be produced for inclusion in both publications.

8. Board Meetings and Visits

8.1 Board Meetings: It was confirmed that remaining meetings in 2015 will be held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month and agreed that they will be held in the Soup Kitchen.

8.2 Site Visits: It was noted that the Trustees' site visit to Balfour and Slewdrum Forests had gone well and that the Commonty visit will take place on 13th Sept, with the Mills visit on the 27th Sept.

Signed Date