

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting 21st October 2014

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

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed JH to his first Board Meeting. The Agenda was confirmed, one apology noted and one item noted for AOB.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

- 2.1 The Minutes of Meeting on 26th August 2014 were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1 Old School: It was confirmed that the fire safety checks were completed for September and October.
- 3.2 Update for Trustees: The Update circulated to Trustees following the informal meeting of Trustees and others on 26th September that replaced the planned Board Meeting was noted as an accurate report.

4. Finances

- 4.1 Management Accounts: The previously circulated tables for the year to 30th September were discussed, including the low level of income and the ratio of administration costs to project expenditure. It was noted that, while a donation is anticipated from BTCo, the payment of the forestry grant for BCT's planting in the Community this year may be delayed.
- 4.2 Endowment Fund: It was agreed that BCT should remove the Endowment Fund money from the Clydesdale Bank, to keep BCT's funds with the bank under the £85,000 protection threshold. It was agreed that BCT's investment policy for the Fund is to take a very cautious, low risk approach at this stage. It was agreed that JW will investigate the options for transferring the Fund money to an interest bearing account with another bank..

5. Administration

- 5.1 New Trustee: JH passed his completed New Director and Biographic forms to RP. Reference was made to the material on the BCT website about the role of a Trustee. It was noted that JH has recently visited the Community with RC and agreed that, as part of his ongoing induction, RC will take JH on a visit to Balfour and Slewdrum Forests.
- 5.2 Memorandum and Articles: Following the discussion on 26th September of the proposed changes to BCT's membership, it was agreed to delay making the proposed amendments to the M & As until BCT's AGM in April/May. RC raised a number of points of detail about the proposed changes, which were agreed. It was agreed that RC will have further contact with Colin Liddell and, in due course, circulate draft wordings for the proposed amendments and for the proposed form to sign to become a registered BCT member.
- 5.3 BCT Office: Trustees discussed the current phone / email / internet arrangements with BT at the Old School. It was agreed that RP and JW will investigate the options for BCT changing provider to reduce costs.
- 5.4 Local Government Boundary Commission Review: The previously circulated paper that had been sent by the Birse Parish Liaison Group to the Commission in 2006, was noted. It was agreed that BCT's view remained that the Birse Parish area would be better served by being part of the Aboyne/Upper Deeside Ward, rather than the current Banchory Ward. It was also

agreed that the properties west of Alt Dinnie should not be within the Birse and Ballogie polling district. It was agreed that RC will write to the three local Councillors, attaching the 2006 paper and advising them of BCT's views. It was agreed that BCT will also write to the Commission and produce a briefing paper on the topic for the next BPLG Meeting.

- 5.5 Birse Parish Liaison Group: The previously circulated paper comparing the Community Representatives in 2001 and 2014, was discussed and endorsed. Copies of the BPLG's 'Terms of Reference' (2001) and a proposed amended version were circulated. It was agreed that Trustees will send any comments on the amended version to RC within a week, otherwise amended version will be taken as approved by BCT for circulation for consideration at the BPLG Meeting on 18th November.

6. Properties

- 6.1 Members' Site Visits: RP reported that Aidan Bell had organised two visits to the Soutar's Shop and one to the Forest of Birse Commonty, with a visit to the Mills planned for November and due to be promoted on POOT. It was noted that the attendance at each visit so far had been low and that Trustees had also hoped for more visits to have taken place. It was agreed that Trustees will consider ways to promote site visits by local members.
- 6.2 Slewdrum Forest: RC reported on the valuation of the 5 ha strip of land and discussions with Forestry Commission Scotland. The negotiated price of £13,250 was agreed and it was also agreed that RC will follow up the discussions with FCS and the Scottish Land Fund.
- 6.3 Forests: It was noted that the annual Birse Parish Deer Management Group meeting is on October 30th at Finzean Old School.
- 6.4 Finzean Old School: It was agreed to replace rather than repair the zinc valley on the main building. It was agreed therefore that RP should accept Denis Welsh's estimate of 7th October for repairs to the roofs of both buildings.
- 6.5 Finzean Mills: It was noted that Davie Hector has started rebuilding the lade at the Bucket Mill and that some minor repairs have also been carried out at the Sawmill.
- 6.6 Finzean Community Woods: It was noted that the annual walk round the Woods took place on the 18th October, with no major points to report. It was agreed, given the low attendance, that next year's walk should take place outside the holiday period.
- 6.7 Corsedardar: It was agreed that Trustees would review last year's Remembrance publicity flier and suggest any amendments to RP. It was noted that RP will ask Alan Bennett of Finzean Community Association if he will lay the wreath on behalf of the local community, and that RC will meet with AS to discuss the content of the event.

7. Any Other Business

- 7.1 Forest of Birse Commonty Maps: It was noted that updated versions of the maps showing the external and internal boundaries of the Commonty, will be circulated in the near future to Trustees for information and uploaded onto the website to replace the existing maps there.

8. Board Meetings

- 8.1 Board Meetings: It was agreed that the next two Board Meetings, both at 7.15 pm, will be
Tuesday, 11th November at Birse Hall
and Tuesday, 9th December at Birse Hall

Signed.....

Date.....