

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting

19th January 2010

Trustees Present: Donald Silcock (Chair), Brian Page (Vice Chair), Jean McLeod, Dorothy Dinnie, Andrew Walker, Robert Dinnie (Patron), Rick Paul (Secretary to Board)

In Attendance Jack Holt

1. Introduction

(i) The Chairman welcomed those attending, noted one additional item for Any Other Business, and read out the Millennium Resolution from the address at the Millennium Stone Re-affirmation on 1st January 2010.

Let there be respect for the earth, peace for its people, love in our lives, delight in the good, forgiveness for past wrongs and from now on a new start.

(ii) AW read a note from Ken Taylor thanking RC for his excellent presentation on behalf of BCT at a recent Grampian Forestry Forum.

(iii) The Trustees' Annual Programme for January to March was read out by the chairman as a reminder of our normal 1st quarter activities. RP to scan and e-mail a copy to all Trustees and Patron.

2. Minutes of Last Board Meeting

The Minutes of the Meeting on 1st December 2009 were approved and signed.

3. Outstanding Matters Arising: (not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda)

(i) Newsletter. It was agreed that due to extenuating circumstances the next newsletter would be produced in March, prior to the AGM mailings. A number of suggested topics were discussed and noted. RP was mandated to co-ordinate the next issue of Update and engage Wag Design for the production run / layout.

(ii) Donated Time. A note of voluntary hours, produced by EB was circulated

4. Administration

(i) Annual Accounts. To note that Christine Wright will circulate draft accounts to Trustees by 28th Jan for approval.

It was agreed that RP would re-engage Ellie Flather at Wag Design for the layout and production of the Annual report for the AGM (including the summarised accounts once signed off by A2B & Trustees.

Ref e-mail memo from RC 4th May 2009 re restricted funds and contingent liabilities – RP to ask Christine Wright if an update is required to ensure they are correctly represented in the accounts.

(ii) AGM. The date for the AGM was set for 19th May 2010 in Ballogie Hall.

. RP to check hall availability and book.

RP to ask EB to produce exhibition of old photos, maps, postcards for AGM as discussed previously following its success last year.

Election procedure – RP to ask RC if new procedure was written. If not BP to action.

RP to ask Paul Chapman if he would do a presentation on a topic of local interest e.g. birds A ceiling of £1500 was allocated for the AGM.

It was agreed that a video production of BCT sites could be appropriate for the 2011 AGM.

(iii) Management Accounts. To note that Profit and Loss accounts will be e-mailed to

Trustees and discussed at the February Board Meeting. RP to action.

(iv) Flood Damage to BCT Office. RP to contact Mark White to independently discuss the statement from Lycetts that the recent burst pipe and associated damage to the Old School is not covered by BCT's farm buildings insurance policy. If not, RP to ask Mark White what options if any may be open to BCT for redress. The Trustees expressed their dismay at this discovery and seriously questioned the advice received from their insurance broker Lycetts in a previous insurance review.

To note that WB will act as repair co-ordinator reporting to all Trustees via RP as secretary to the board. In the meantime, office operations will be based in the Soup Kitchen.

It was agreed that RP would make formal contact with Lycetts to fully understand the policy wording and discuss this matter further with them following advice from MW as above.

5. Management

There was a general, wide ranging, amicable discussion on the recent issues surrounding roles / project managers / email content & expected code of conduct of contractors & volunteers. This discussion was intimated at the start by the Chairman as strictly confidential. All present were asked for their valued and entrusted input to this discussion, all being very experienced and familiar with the difficult issues facing the Trustees on this matter. The Chairman thanked everyone for their input.

(i) Roles and Responsibilities RP to contact RC to discuss formalising his role as Land Agent and Strategic Overviewer to assist the Trustees in defining BCT's future structure.

(ii) e-mails Bill Bailey. The Trustees reviewed the e-mails from WB regarding the Mills, their management and recent minutes and concluded that it would be preferable to meet with him personally to discuss these issues.

(iii) e-mail Eileen Bailey BP had produced a response to EB's e-mail on the subject of strategic plan consultations. It was agreed that RP would forward to EB

(iv) Projects and Properties

Big Lottery Fund RC has papers from BLF and has scheduled meeting with Rachael Wood on 22/01/2010
Balfour Wood RC is actively seeking alternative funding
Wood Chip Heating RC is due to meet Aberdeenshire Council to progress this project
Graveyard Extn RC is in discussions with Stuart Young and waiting feedback. There has been no further information from Aberdeenshire Council.

Forest Mgt Plan RC is liaising with Irvine Ross re Slewdrum and Forest of Birse
Slewdrum Trees have been felled, yet to be removed
3 Estates RC has scheduled meeting with Stuart Young, Andrew Nicol, and Andrew Farquharson
19/01/2010 F4P No further progress

6. AOB

(i) Broadband. Ken Taylor suggested that BCT could become involved in local broadband speeds/connectivity. It was thought that it was more a Community Council issue (that could be supported by BCT) and that it should be tabled as an agenda item at the next BPLG meeting in February. RP to reply to Ken accordingly.

(ii) Burnett legacy. A question was tabled from a member as to whether the community should be consulted re the use of the Burnett legacy. The Trustees view was that the legacy was 'allocated' in the accounts and decided that this is the best way to safeguard the best use of the legacy.

(iii) To note that DS had been invited to a DWP reception at Finzean House on 26/01/2010

7. Meetings

It was confirmed that the next Board Meeting will be on Tues 23rd February 2010, and that the following meeting will be on Mon 22nd March 2010.

Signed.....

Date.....

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