

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting 20th November 2018

Trustees Present: Guy Haslam (Chair), Hedge Shand, Pam Taylor, Jonathan Kitching, Toby Rider, John Hector, Nancy Davidson.

In Attendance: Eoghan Cameron (Manager), Jane Winton (Administrator), Sian Loftus (AHF bid), Rick Paul (Secretary to Board)

Apologies: Alison Bell

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The agenda was confirmed and one apology noted.
- 1.2 The Trustees thanked JW for repairing the flag.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

- 2.1 The Minutes of Meeting on 23rd October 2018 were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1 The smoke detector and emergency lighting checks for October were completed.

4. Finances

- 4.1 GH distributed and then explained the draft budget for 2019 and asked Trustees to bring any comments to the next meeting, when it will be signed off. He would move the Old School projects into the relevant sections.
- 4.2 JW reported that she had bought a new laptop, and was in the process of purchasing an accounts package.
- 4.3 EC informed the Trustees that he had been in contact with St James's Place banking services, and was asked to have them model a £60k investment based on a) a green investment portfolio and b) a wider investment portfolio.

5. Properties and Projects

- 5.1 Old School AHF Bid: SL informed Trustees that leafleting of households was underway in advance of the main meeting on December 13th. The three Trustees on the project team meet monthly and produce minutes of updates and issues. The project is on programme, and Tom Morton of ARC in Fife has been appointed as architect.
- 5.2 History and Heritage: SL confirmed that a grant bid has been submitted and possibilities exist for collaborative work with a school in the Caribbean. Trustees on the team are ND and AB.
- 5.3 Turning and Sawmills: GH explained that studies in 2003 and again in 2010 had concluded that electricity generation using water power from the lade was not a viable option and that he had re-investigated the option and confirmed that nothing had changed since then, although the renewable grant schemes were due to be reviewed in 2019. Trustees agreed in principle to permit filming of the mills for possible inclusion in a new series of 'Outlander'. Trustees agreed to host Archaeology Scotland's annual meeting at the mills on May 20th 2019.

- 5.4 Balfour: It was noted that TR is now a director of BCo and had been on an introductory visit to Balfour with the other Directors. He spoke about replanting options, and noted that the road and ditches need maintenance work after the thinning work, and that Jim Reid is poised to finish the new track.
- 5.5 Slewdrum: JW reported that Piri Piri is back in Slewdrum and is being hand picked but it may need to be sprayed. However there is also Piri Piri on FES land which needs to be dealt with to prevent more spread. Paul Chapman for BCo is to reply to the member of the public that brought it BCT's attention.
- 5.6 Birse Kirk: JK reported that the gutters have been repaired, but work on the belfry and damp problems are still outstanding. GH to follow up with ETBK.
- 5.7 Remembrance: GH noted that both services were well attended, 46 at Corsedardar and 26 at Birse Kirk.

6. Meetings and Visits

- 6.1 Birse Parish Liaison Group: GH reported that the recent meeting was well attended and a further meeting is planned for 2019.
- 6.2 Board Meetings: First meeting in 2019 on Tuesday Jan 15th, followed by Tuesday 19th February. Also, a Sunday afternoon meeting was scheduled for January 27th from 2 - 5 pm.

7. Any Other Business

- 7.1 GH asked Trustees to consider new projects for possible Tesco funding.
- 7.2 GH thought that when project printing was required, it would be preferable for BCT to pay Trustees for their printer ink rather than purchase a new colour printer.
- 7.3 The Deer Management Group meeting noted that there were fewer deer sightings this year and therefore fewer culled. The Trustees agreed that BCT should continue to regularly review its deer management policies, although there was always the possibility that deer numbers could increase again.
- 7.4 JK pondered whether BCT should visit Tarland Development Group to gain an insight into their work.
- 7.5 JK reminded Trustees that they had agreed to look at the option of naming part of a future project (a path or seat) after Robin Callander in recognition of all he had done for BCT – but only after he had been consulted. They agreed to review this after the proposed work at Balfour and Slewdrum.

Signed.....

Date.....