

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting 18th September 2018

Trustees Present: Guy Haslam (Chair), Hedge Shand, John Hector, Alison Bell, Nancy Davidson.

In Attendance: Rick Paul (Secretary to Board)

Apologies: Pam Taylor, Toby Rider, Jonathan Kitching, Eoghan Cameron (Manager), Jane Winton (Administrator).

1. Introduction

1.1 The agenda was confirmed and apologies noted.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The Minutes of Meeting on 7th August 2018 were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising

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

4. Properties and Projects

- 4.1 Old School AHF Bid: AB and JH met with Sian Loftus to discuss the tendering process. Tenders must be lodged by 5th October and AB, JH and possibly PT involved in interviewing potential consultants mid October. It was stressed that consultants must fully engage with the community. RP to investigate water dripping from Old School overflow.
- 4.2 History and Heritage: SL is applying for funding, and if successful, a steering group involving ND will be formed to lead the heritage project into the history of the Old School.
- 4.3 Turning and Sawmills: SL to apply for funding to investigate the way forward for the mills complex. GH reported that the weir is complete, the new sign is in place opposite the sawmill, and that BCT had recently hosted two tours, one to a photographic group and one to a couple from Fife who own a derelict grain mill.
- 4.4 Meeting with ETBK: ND reported that the Communion Cups from Birse Kirk are held at Birse and Feughside Kirk ref Malcolm Littlejohn. ND also reported that that ETBK had assured the meeting that plans were in place for urgent repairs to the Kirk. RP to follow up and report at next board meeting.
- 4.5 Commonty: GH reported that EC has almost completed the new fire plan which will be discussed at the next Deer Management meeting. The Emergency Mast will now probably be located on Birse Estate's land to the South side of the Feugh, outside BCT's main interests on the North Hill. GH was planning to meet with Doug Boyle to discuss the management of the BCT and BCo woods and forests and would provide an update at the next meeting. There is the possibility of a thinning at the top end of the Commonty, near Forest of Birse Kirk in 2019.
- 4.6 Balfour: Tillhill are currently thinning the forest. BCT hosted a Marr Orienteering event on 26th August. The Tarland Mountain Bike Group have requested permission for an event to take place next year, BCo is liaising.

5. Administration

- 5.1 Strategic Plan: Trustees noted comments following community distribution prior to publication. RP to organize upload to the website.
- 5.2 Forests' Insurance: GH reported that following a meeting with Ken Taylor, BCT would revisit the woodlands insurance at its renewal in February.

6. Meetings and Visits

- 6.1 Site Visits: GH reported on the DTAS site visit on Sept 2nd, and AB reported on the meeting of Sept 3rd, noting ways to engage the younger members of the community in particular.
- 6.2 Board Meetings: Tuesday 23rd October, Tuesday 20th November 2018, both 7:15 p.m., Archive Building. ND and JH indicated that they could not attend the October meeting.

7. Any Other Business

- 7.1 Glendye Windfarm: The proposed windfarm development at Glendye was discussed but it was agreed that this was Community Council business, although GH stated that he was keen to involve Finzean in order to get access to potential funds.
- 7.2 News Article in 'The Rabbit': GH to send the article to Ballogie for possible inclusion in the next edition of 'The Ballogie Bugle'.
- 7.3 Shed at Finzean Hall: GH reported that Finzean CA had informed him that they were planning to put up a storage shed by the Hall on CA land.
- 7.4 Reforestation Scotland: This year's Annual Gathering is October 5 - 7th and BTCo are involved. EC will show the BCT presentation to about 30 folk on the 5th. GH to forward details to AB for a Mills visit.

Signed.....

Date.....