

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting 26th November 2019

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

In Attendance: Eoghan Cameron (Manager), Rick Paul (Secretary to the Board).
Alastair Pout - in attendance prior to the start of the formal meeting

Apologies: Jane Winton (Administrator).

Further to the circulated summary of Schedule 1 raptors in Finzean, Birse and Ballogie in 2019, Alastair Pout from the North East Scotland Raptor Study Group gave an interesting and informative talk on local raptors, which was well received by Trustees. BCT pledged to liaise with the NESRSG before any tree thinning operations are undertaken, and to consider the consequences of promoting public access in the areas that the Trust manages in order to minimise disturbance to the birds. Alastair was thanked for his time, and he left the meeting.

1. Introduction

1.1 The agenda was confirmed and apologies noted.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The minutes of meeting on 14th October 2019 were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 The smoke detector and emergency lighting checks for October 2019 were completed.

4. Finances

4.1 Natural Regeneration: part of the final set of payments for the North Hill regeneration is imminent. Following a meeting with the Trust's Forestry Agent, there is scope to clear fell some non-native trees and to thin further stands of trees along the valley. A proposal will be produced and put to Trustees for approval.

4.2 Tree tubes: the process of removing all plastic from the North Hill is in progress, but with the quantity of tubes in question, it will be a protracted operation.

4.3 Deer Control: GH to write to Ballogie Estate to propose a reduction in BCT's payments to the Estate as a result of the reduced number of deer being shot on the North Hill.

4.4 BTCO Donation: TR to confirm BTCO's donation to BCT for 2019.

5. Administration

5.1 In the interests of transparency, AB declared that she was now a member of Finzean Community Council.

6. Properties and Projects

6.1 Old School AHF Bid: AB and GH met with Sian Loftus who said she would not be available to work on the project until March 2020. Trustees agreed to wait until then. GH has asked SL for a proposal for the way ahead for the project.

6.2 History and Heritage: ND to contact the school for an update on the Kingston link.

- 6.3 e-bikes: Trustees agreed to investigate the possibility of a tie-in with Ballogie and/or Finzean. EC to talk to Malcolm Nicol, JK to talk to Gail Amey from Mid Deeside.
- 6.4 Website: Work continues. EC to liaise with Ellie Flather to obtain photographs for the site.
- 6.5 Broadband: Guest broadband in the Old School is now operative.
- 6.6 Community Cider: EC and AB visited a producer in Cults. The manufacture of apple juice is considerably easier than cider. GH to talk to Catriona Farquharson and see if they have purchased an apple press and if so to see if there is potential for BCT to use it for community apple pressing. EC to arrange for an article to be added to BCT's Facebook page and the subject to be discussed at the AGM.
- 6.7 P.A. Equipment: EC has a possible buyer for the equipment.
- 6.8 BPLG Meeting: the meeting on 12th November was positive and a further meeting is scheduled for November 2020.
- 6.9 Remembrance: the services on Corsedardar and at Birse Kirk went well with 44 people attended the service at Corsedardar.
- 6.10 School Path: the extension is almost complete, with just a gate to be added.
- 6.11 Estates' Meeting: EC, AB and EC attended for BCT. Topics discussed included the North Hill Agreement, the Emergency Mast in the Feugh Valley, and track swiping to ensure clear passage for vehicles in case of fire.
- 6.12 Signs: EC presented the completed signs which were ready for placement by Davie Hector.
- 6.13 Balfour Forest: the tracks are in good shape, ATA are engaged and transition is in progress. Until this is complete, BCTCo retains responsibility. JK completed a risk assessment on 26th November 2019. The final section of the new track is on hold pending planning permission.
- 6.14 Old School Flag: The Trustees decided to take the flag and pole down for the winter.

7. Any Other Business

- 7.1 Birse Kirk repairs: GH to contact ETBK to ascertain the cost of the repairs, which will take place in Apr 2020.
- 7.2 Slewdrum: A contractor has been engaged to swipe the tracks in January. TR to contact the Council to arrange for similar swiping on the Deeside Way.
- 7.3 Further informative talks: Trustees agreed that it would be useful for them to be more involved in discussions with various stake holders in order to further their knowledge.

8. Meetings and Visits

- 8.1 Board Meetings: Dates for 2020 are 28th January and 25th February, both 7:15 p.m., Archive Room.

Signed.....

Date.....