

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting

28th April 2020

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, this meeting took place online via Zoom.

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

Apologies: Toby Rider, Hedge Shand.

In Attendance: Eoghan Cameron (Manager), Jane Winton (Administrator), Rick Paul (Secretary to the Board).

1. Introduction

1.1 GH welcomed those present to the first Zoom Trustee meeting. The agenda was confirmed and apologies noted.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The minutes of meeting on 31st March 2020 were agreed. RP to arrange with GH to sign.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 None

4. Finances

4.1 Annual Accounts: JW reported that the first draft should be ready for Trustees to review later in the week.

4.2 Management Accounts. JW presented the first quarter accounts showing that they are on track with the budget. Trustees agreed to transfer funds from No.4 account to No.3 account as required for Commony maintenance.

4.3 Endowment Funds. JW is still working on getting interest on the endowment account.

4.4 Donation. The Trustees were grateful to receive a donation from the Callendar Trust. RP to write a thank you letter.

5. Administration

5.1 AGM: Trustees agreed to postpone the AGM until 16th August.

5.2 Annual Report: It was agreed to retain the printed version of the report. Copies of the Annual Report to be distributed to The Farm Shop and The Butterworth Gallery, subject to movement restrictions.

5.3 Trustees: GH has approached a potential new Trustee in Finzean who has said that he would be happy to join the board at the next AGM. AB agreed to approach a second potential new Trustee.

6. Properties and Projects

6.1 Commony: GH and EC held a video call with Neil Crookston from Scottish Forestry on the Forestry Plan. Neil said that they should be able to produce a draft plan by August 2020 with a view to the plan being signed off by the end of the year. His work would include looking at the potential and economics of:

- (1) Felling of non-native pine by FoB Kirk, and thinning at The Finlets in 2021.
- (2) Planting in the Bogturk bowl

The updated North Hill Forest Plan would be based on the principle that the North Hill is not a commercial forest and therefore would focus on the environmental / ecological benefits while providing sufficient income to maintain the area (insurance, removing tubes and swiping etc.).

Trustees were shocked and disappointed to learn that there had been two separate instances of people using BBQs along the Forest of Birse during a period of extreme fire risk and lock down. The police and fire brigade were informed.

EC reported that swiping has been completed.

6.2 Old School Project: There is a possibility of 'Aye, it was Aabody' being put online. ND has offered to provide the audio.

6.3 Website: The new website is ready to go live. EC to progress.

6.4 Balfour Forest Sign: Doug and Ellie's sign is almost ready. ATA will maintain the mountain bike tracks and complete the risk assessments.

6.5 Finzean Community Path: Davie Hector has completed repairs.

6.6 Emergency Funding: Trustees decided not to apply for Covid 19 related funding.

7. Other Projects

7.1 Digital Archive: AB to discuss with Sian Loftus.

8. Trustees Meetings

8.1 Board Meetings: Next Meeting 7:15 pm on June 9th via Zoom. GH to send invitations.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 PPE: EC has located some face masks and glasses in the Old School which Trustees agreed to donate to the NHS.

Signed.....

Date.....