

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting

7th July 2020

This meeting took place online via Zoom.

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

Apologies: 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 Zoom Trustee meeting. The agenda was confirmed and apologies noted.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The minutes of meeting on 28th April 2020 were agreed. RP to arrange with GH to sign.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 None

4. Finances

4.1 Annual Accounts: The 2019 accounts have been signed off by Trustees, and will be sent to Companies House after members' approval at the AGM.

4.2 Management Accounts: JW presented the 2nd quarter accounts showing that they are on track with the budget. The Slewdrum mast rent is outstanding. JW to pursue.

4.3 Endowment Funds: JW is progressing an interest bearing endowment account.

5. Administration

5.1 AGM: GH had consulted the lawyers who confirmed that the AGM could be postponed until September 2020. Trustees agreed to postpone the AGM until 13th September. Under Article 44, GH must stand down as Chair after the AGM but is eligible for re-election at the subsequent board meeting.

5.2 Annual Report: It was agreed send out the Report with a covering letter. Trustees were asked to inform JW of any changes to householders in the last year. GH to write the covering letter. JW to print the address labels.

5.3 Trustees: GH has approached a potential new Trustee in Finzean who has indicated 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 Commonity: The updated Forest plan is due shortly. A fire rota has been set up between BCT, Ballogie, Birse and Finzean, and will be set in motion when a High Fire Risk notice is circulated. Current tree tubes are being removed from the Old School, but further areas remain to be cleared next year.

6.2 Old School: An agreement to rent out the west end of the building to a local business has been signed. EC to ensure a fire route is clear from east to west and vice versa, put a sign on the partition door stating access for emergency use only and investigate a lock. RP to inform Finzean School of the situation.

6.3 Old School Project: On hold.

6.4 Website: Some old minutes are missing. RP to investigate. EC to promote the new website on Facebook.

6.5 Balfour Forest Sign: The new sign is in place at the entrance to Balfour.

6.6 Open Doors 2020: AB and JK to create a virtual tour of the Soutar's Shop. GH to inform Aberdeenshire Council.

6.7 Finzean Community Path: Ian Hector is willing to maintain the paths for another year.

7. Other Projects

7.1 Archive: AB appraised Trustees of the current position. In summary, AB to ascertain where we stand at present and how we should move forward With input from AB, ND and GH, EC to try to locate a willing local archivist to advise on the true value and organize the digitizing of the items currently in the archive.

8. Trustees Meetings

8.1 Board Meetings: Next Meeting 7:15 pm on August 11th via Zoom. GH to send invitations.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Shooting: TR asked Trustees for their views on the general principle of recreational deer shooting by local residents on BCT/BTCO land, noting that there is a contractor currently in place. Trustees had no objections. TR to discuss with the BTCO directors.

9.2 Emergency Mast: The Home Office consultants have identified a potential site for an emergency telephone mast in the vicinity of Woodend in Finzean. BCT plan to reply when the mast is in the formal planning process.

9.3 Community Path. A possible hazard was identified where the Community Path crosses the Powlair Road. Whilst this is not BCT's responsibility, the Trustees agreed that would contribute if FCC puts any signs up. AB will report back to FCC.

9.4 Birsemore: JK informed the meeting that the cottage on the Queen's Loch is being refurbished for letting. Also, a leaflet from Aboyne Paths is due in the near future, a path from Aboyne to Gen Tanar is being investigated, and there is a general increase in Cycle/Walking Friendly Roads which may be of interest to BCT in the future.

Signed.....

Date.....