

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting

13th August 2020

This meeting took place online via Zoom.

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

Apologies: Nancy Davidson, Hedge Shand, Jane Winton (Book-keeper)

In Attendance: Eoghan Cameron (Manager), 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 7th July 2020 were agreed. RP to arrange with GH to sign.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 The smoke detector and emergency lighting checks for July 2020 were completed.

4. Finances

4.1 Endowment Funds. JW is progressing an interest bearing endowment account.

4.2 Mast rent. JW has received the rent for the Slewdrum mast. TR noted that when the contract comes up for renewal, it is strongly recommended that BCT use an agent to secure the best deal available.

4.3 2019 Accounts. JW has sent a copy of the finalized accounts to the Trustees and team.

5. Administration

5.1 AGM: It was agreed that BCT will hold its formal AGM by Zoom at 16.00 on 13th September in order to meet its legal commitments. RP will send out the formal invitation asking for people to sign up to attend the meeting and also for any questions. The Trust will then hold an Open Meeting to discuss the running the Trust, and items such as the Archive and the Forest Plan as soon as conditions allow.

5.2 Trustees: Two locals have expressed a desire to become Trustees. They should post their nominations to BCT's solicitors to arrive two weeks before the AGM.

6. Properties and Projects

6.1 Commonty: The initial scoping phase of the Forest Plan for the Commonty, Balfour and Slewdrum woods has started, with feedback being collated by Scottish Woodlands. This will shape the draft Forest Plan for consultation with the Estates and the Community. GH met with Malcolm Nicol and came to an agreement for deer control.

6.2 Old School: The agreement to rent out the west end of the building to a local business is working well for both parties. The majority of tree tubes have been removed from the Old School, with a few bags remaining. BCT is contracted to keep Wi-Fi for the next 18 months.

6.3 Open Doors 2020: AB and JK have inspected the Soutar's Shop and are due to meet again next week. The video is on target for the third weekend in September.

6.4 Community Path: Davie Hector is due to put up 6 new dog mess signs.

7. Other Projects

7.1 Archive: AB told Trustees that BCT will need a lot of advice and support to move the project forward. It would be helpful to create a group of interested locals who could liaise with an organization such as The Community Archive and Heritage Group. GH to add this to the invitation to the Open Meeting mentioned in 5.1.

7.2 Aye, it was A'body: The unveiling of the panels should involve a celebrity for maximum publicity. AB to liaise with ND and come up with a proposal.

7.3 Hydropower: GH discussed BCT's 2003 hydropower project with a PhD student, and explained that that it had proved uneconomical to take it any further.

8. Trustees Meetings

8.1 Board Meetings: The next meeting will be the Zoom AGM on Sept 13th (GH/RP), followed by a Board Meeting on 6th October.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Shooting: BCo will discuss at their upcoming AGM.

9.2 Website changes. RP to inform Trustees of any changes on the website.

9.3 Birse Kirk: The sign is looking dilapidated. GH to inform ETBK and also inquire about the ongoing remedial works to the Kirk.

Finally, with John Hector and Jonathan Kitching due to stand down at the forthcoming AGM, GH led the Trustees in thanking them for a combined total of 13 years of voluntary service to the community.

Signed.....

Date.....