

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting

17th November 2020 (on Zoom)

Trustees Present: Alison Bell, Toby Rider, Liz Bracegirdle, Simon Lindsey, Sian Loftus.

Apologies: Nancy Davidson.

In Attendance: Rick Paul (Secretary to the Board).

1. Introduction

1.1 Agenda/Apologies: The agenda was confirmed, and one apology noted.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The minutes of meeting on 6th October 2020 and 3rd November 2020 were agreed. RP to arrange signatures with AB.

3. Matters Arising

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

4. Administration

4.1 Manager's Position: Five candidates from a total of nineteen were shortlisted and will be interviewed on Zoom on 25th and 27th November. RP to reply to the unsuccessful and AB to the successful candidates.

4.2 Policies: Trustees reviewed and approved the Trustees Code of Conduct, General Code of Conduct, Equal Opportunity Policy and Health & Safety Policy.

5. Properties and Projects

5.1 Finzean Community Woods: The quote from Roy Cowie was discussed. LB and SL to make a site visit and talk to owners of affected properties. LB to provide details of an alternative woodsman.

5.2 Community Path: The maintenance is on hold until the spring. BCT has received a grant from the KGV fund to cover the cost. There was no news on the dog mess signs.

5.3 North Hill Forest Plan: TR to ask Robin Callander to replicate his work for BTCo on behalf of BCT. AB to modify the wording of the Community Pinewood Statement of Intent to read as follows:-.

1. No trees will be felled/harvested/removed from the Community Pinewoods for economic or commercial reasons.

2. The trustees' aim is to manage the forest and forest habitat with a light touch and to maintain and conserve it in the most natural way possible. If there is a sound environmental rationale which benefits the forest, then the trustees may consider some selective tree felling/removal over the period of the forest plan.

3. If any removal of trees is deemed necessary, then the trustees will consider employing traditional methods e.g. the use of horses to undertake any work.

- 5.4 Commonty: TR to ask EC and GH whether there is a defined strategy regarding tree tube removal. Euan Christie's tube removal is currently on hold.
- 5.5 Mills: No remedial work is required to the south side of the weir.
- 5.6 Corsedardar: a limited Remembrance Service took place on Sunday 8th November.
- 5.7 Birse Kirk: to be discussed at the next meeting.
- 5.8 Annual Meeting with the Estates: this is scheduled for Dec 1st at The Old School. AB and SL to attend.
- 5.9 Deer Management: Doug Boyle has provided feedback on the Microsoft Teams meeting with a much-reduced attendance. Cull numbers are down but targets left unchanged although unlikely to be met owing to restrictions. There is to be a meeting early in 2021 to review the fire maps. AB to mention this at the Estates' meeting on Dec 1st.

6. Other Projects

- 6.1 Archive: SL to circulate comments on priorities, and to investigate City and Shire training courses.
- 6.2 Old School: SL to circulate the report to AB.
- 6.3 Aye, it was a'body: the unveiling of the panel has been postponed and is now scheduled for 2 weeks' time.
- 6.4 Emergency Mast: SL declared a potential conflict of interest and left the meeting for this item. Trustees discussed two emails received from locals on the possible siting of an emergency mast up the Feugh valley. They agreed to write to Mono for further information on the visual impact of a mast in close proximity to the A listed mills complex. AB to reply to the emails accordingly.
- 6.5 Bees: Trustees discussed a request to allow beehives on BCT land. They agreed to ask for further detail. AB to action.

7. Trustee Meetings

- 7.1 Board Meetings: The next Zoom board meeting will be on Dec 15th, followed by Jan 12th.

8. Any Other Business

- 8.1 Enclosures on the Commonty: SL reported that a fenced off area has been established behind the Castle. Trustees were concerned that this is not permitted on Commonty land. SL to investigate the principle of 'No Enclosure' on the Commonty. RP to look for previous documentation making any reference to this.

Signed.....

Date.....