BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting

23rd November 2023

Trustees Present:	Alison Bell, Sian Loftus, Simon Lindsey, Robert Dinnie, Liz Bracegirdle.
Apologies:	Toby Rider, Nancy Davidson.
In Attendance:	Toni Watt (Manager), Jackie Robertson (Book keeper), Rick Paul (Secretary to the Board).

1. Introduction

1.1 AB welcomed the Trustees and team to the meeting, noted two apologies and 1 item for AOB.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The minutes of meetings of 26th September and 2nd November 2023 were agreed and signed.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Fire Safety: The smoke detector and emergency lighting checks were completed for October 2023.

4. Finance

4.1 Management Accounts: Trustees reviewed and approved the qtr 3 accounts subject to resolution of a query to the Corsedardar total.

4.2 Grass cutting: Trustees were made aware that the annual grass cutting cost is around £1100.

5. Administration

5.1 Board of Trustees: AB informed the Trustees that she would remain Chair until the end of the February 2024, but would then stay on as a Trustee. AB and DTAS are co-ordinating training sessions and the completion of a questionnaire.

5.2 Annual Plan: Trustees discussed and analysed the draft plan. TW to liaise with \Davie Hector, refine and include costings. TW to contact the Bothy Project re The Ord. TW to purchase dedicated hard drive for BCT work.

6. Other Projects

6.1 Raptor Report: There have been two meetings with the Estates. The North East of Scotland Raptor Study Group will re-draft the report taking into account the concerns of the estates. TW to clarify WAB links to BCT.

6.2 Commonty Mast: BCT has been in discussions with the Environmental Rights Centre Scotland. SLo to draft and circulate a letter to the relevant Minister explaining BCT's position re the site lease. TW to make a Freedom of Information request to the Council requesting documents relating to the planning decision.

6.3 Slewdrum Harvest: To be discussed at December's meeting.

6.4 Soup Kitchen: Trustees discussed the project update showing that funding decisions are still outstanding. SLo to provide a new report for the December meeting.

6.5 Soutar's Shop: Trustees discussed the project update noting that Visions Photography have completed their photoshoot. The Soutar's Shop Heritage Group met last week and are meeting again in January. There is a meeting in December to discuss bat mitigation during the renovation works. TW to provide a new report for the December meeting.
6.6 Foul Water: Ongoing.
6.7 Remembrance: 40 people attended the Corsedardar service and 22 people were at Birse Kirk.
6.8 Christmas Party. Trustees decided to hold a gathering in the spring.

7. Manager's Report

7.1 Capercaillie: TW attended a meeting. Speyside numbers are good, but Deeside is poor. BCT will be involved in the next 5 year project.
7.2 John Muir Trust: Trustees agreed to endorse the letters to EAC and SAC.
7.3 Ants: Trustees agreed to the placing a live camera feed on one of the ant hills.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Raptor Review: Trustees reacted positively to the idea of an independent review of raptors on BCT land.

9. Trustees' Meetings

9.1 The next board meeting is 11th December 2023, 7:15pm Old School.

Signed..... Date.....