BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting

11th December 2023

Trustees Present: Alison Bell, Sian Loftus, Simon Lindsey, Robert Dinnie, Liz Bracegirdle, Toby Rider, Nancy Davidson.

In Attendance: Toni Watt (Manager), Rick Paul (Secretary to the Board).

1. Introduction

1.1 AB welcomed the Trustees and team to the meeting and noted five items for AOB.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The minutes of meeting of 23rd November 2023 were agreed and signed.

3. Matters Arising

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

4. Administration

4.1 DTAS Training: The training session will be either 16/17 or 30/31 January from 17:30 – TBA.

4.2 Annual Plan: The previously circulated updated plan needs to be signed off in January to enable a grant application to be made.

5. Other Projects

5.1 Raptor Report: The report is subject to discussions between the Estates and the North East of Scotland Raptor Study Group and will be re-drafted presently.

5.2 Commonty Mast: The reports requested under F.O.I. are marked as 'not for disclosure' and are therefore unavailable. TW to contact RSPB to understand the limit of disturbance recommendations. SLo to pass information to TW.

5.3 Slewdrum Harvest: TR explained the one year plan and the five year plan for Slewdrum. The budgets need to be amended to smooth out the income, re-think road improvements and include grants. The harvesting of the Muckle Ord can proceed with the income expected at the end of q1 2024.

5.4 Soutar's Shop: A grant for emergency works has been raised from the Pilgrim Trust. Trustees agreed that the money should be spent capping off the chimney, planning for the main repair work and employing a conservator. TW to discuss with Will Napier.

5.5 Foul Water: Ongoing.

6. Manager's Report

6.1 Broom: TotalEnergies are to cut broom up the Forest of Birse on Monday 18th December.

6.2 Soutar's Shop: Anyone interested in a tour should act now before the renovation work begins.

6.3 Bucket Mill: Ellon Photography group tour on Wed 12th December.

7. Trustees' Meetings

7.1 The next board meeting is either 16/17 or 30/31 January 7:15pm Old School - TBA.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Bothy Project: Trustees reacted positively to the news that the Bothy Project has shown interest in using the Soup Kitchen as a base, initially for two x one week long trials.

8.2 Wild About Birse: From 1st January 2024, WAB has decided to become completely separate from BCT.

8.3 Marr Area Log Bank: A request for supplies will be answered by TW.

8.4 Birse Kirk: Active woodworm has been found in the pulpit. RD to arrange for an inspection and subsequent treatment to take place. Booking conditions are to be tightened up.

8.5 Aboyne Games: RD offered to arrange for a stand to be made available along with a page in the programme to promote membership and encourage fund raising. This was eagerly accepted by Trustees.

Signed..... Date 13.2.24.....