BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Zoom Mast Meeting

15th January 2024 7:30p.m.

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

1. Introduction

AB thanked everyone for their attendance and noted that this meeting was solely concerned with the Commonty mast at Ballochan.

2. Meeting

AB reported that she and TW had attended a meeting with Helen Main from Cornerstone and Peter Shackleton. Stuart Young and Abby Nicol were also in attendance.

They were informed that any contractual arrangement will be with Dunecht and they alone will sign the Code Rights. Cornerstone intends to take a 6" ground core sample on January 25th. SY requested a detailed method statement including dates for activities within four weeks, to be shared with all parties. Cornerstone wishes to complete all works by June, birdlife permitting, and will access the site via a bog mat, not a road. They are aware of Capercaillie concerns and will mitigate accordingly. They are happy for BCT to have a representative on site and will pay that person and keep BCT in touch at all times.

3. Discussions

Trustees agreed that as things stand it would be inadvisable to dispute the planning decision, so it would be logical to move away from contesting the mast towards making sure our fundamental rights are recognized in order that the installation of the mast is handled in a sympathetic manner.

Trustees were concerned that BCT was not being recognized as an active partner in the Commonty management, and look forward to further conversations with SY to cement our relationship. There was concern that a falling out over the mast might damage the chances of renewing the NHMA.

4. Actions

SLo offered to contact Grampian Community Law and Malcolm Coombe to ascertain the validity of Cornerstone's claim that only the landowner needs to sign the Code Rights. RP to contact BCT's lawyers to obtain a quote to investigate along the same lines. TW to circulate any relevant papers from PS. AB to send the Cornerstone meeting notes to RD.

5. Conclusion

Trustees agreed that they will not contest the construction of the mast but want to ensure that it is done in a way that respects BCT's rights over the land and the ecology, and will be reviewing the circulated paperwork.

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