BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting

27th August 2024

Trustees Present: Simon Lindsey (Chair), Nancy Davidson, Alison Bell, Toby Rider

Apologies: Liz Bracegirdle, Robert Dinnie, Rick Paul (Secretary to the Board)

In Attendance: Toni Watt (Manager)

1. Introduction

1.1 SL chair welcomed the Trustees and team to the meeting and noted three apologies.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The minutes of meetings of 30th July 2024 were agreed.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Fire Safety: The smoke detector and emergency lighting checks were completed for August, 2024.

4. AGM / Finance

4.1 SL confirmed details for the AGM, on 12th September at the Old School, Finzean at 7 pm.

5. Administration

5.1 MTB Insurance TR to go back to Will Clarke with insurers report to see if there is anything else we can do. SL suggested Will contacting Scottish Cycling for advice.

6. Projects

6.1 Aboyne Games, trustees reported back that there were lots of good conversations and engagement with the public. Some different ideas for next year, and it would be good to go back if we can.

Thanks to Robert Dinnie for organising the BCT stall and for refreshments.

6.2 Souter's Shop, following newspaper articles written by the P&J and picked up by the Times, there has been a lot of interest in the Souter's Shop. AB to respond to a request for interview on Good Morning Scotland and STV news. TW to contact P&J editor and the Times towards working together in the future. Concerns were raised over site security now it is publicised much more widely. TW to engage with B2C2 to ask for help from Ballogie residents in keeping an eye on the shop and Neighbourhood Watch.

6.3 Inspiring Aberdeenshire. SL and Lorraine to attend on behalf of BCT.

6.4 John Henderson request for a speaker. Agreed to give a brief talk on BCT and the buildings in its care with the focus on the Souter's Shop project. TW to contact JH.

7. Manager's Report

7.1 Thanks to TotalEnergies volunteers for their work on clearing a section of the Coffin Road in Balfour Forest.

7.2 Euan Christie expressed concerns about increased dog walking on Tom's Cairn and the increased sheep worrying. Trustees agreed to Euan putting up extra signage on the land they manage at Tom's Cairn if it helps.

7.3 Andy Newcombe led a successful two-day lime mortar course at the Old School repairing a section of wall and training 7 people in traditional lime mortar skills.

8. A.O.B.

8.1 Finzean Paths. TW met with Guy Haslam on 1st July to discuss extensions to Finzean Community Path. TW to reply to Guy and invite more discussion with the trustees after the AGM re concerns over regular maintenance of the paths.

8.2 Commonty Fishing Beat at Slewdrum Forest. Malcolm Nicol is passing ownership of his share of the beat onto his daughters and needs to fix the boundaries for land registration. TR met with MN, Abby Nicol and Andrew Farquharson to discuss the boundary. MN to mark up new boundary on a map for trustees' approval.

8.3 AB reported back on a site visit to the Soup Kitchen by the Bothy Project and potential artists in residence for March 2025. The project was decided to be held in Glen Tanar as it was in the CNPA area (funders) rather than the Soup Kitchen this time.

9. Trustees and Meetings

9.1 Next Meeting 1st October 7.15pm at the Old School.

9.2 ND to chair next board meeting

Signed..... Date…….....