BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting

1st October 2024

Trustees Present: Nancy Davidson, Simon Lindsey, Toby Rider, Robert Dinnie.

Apologies: Liz Bracegirdle, Alison Bell.

In Attendance: Toni Watt (Manager), Jackie Robertson Bookkeeper, Rick Paul (Secretary to the Board)

1. Introduction

1.1 Acting Chair ND welcomed the Trustees and team to the meeting and noted two apologies and one item for AOB.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The previously agreed minutes of meetings of 25th June and 30th July were signed and the minutes of the meeting of 27th August 2024 were agreed and signed.

3. Matters Arising

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

4. Finance

4.1 Financial Reporting: Trustees approved JR's qtr 3 figures, noting that unless measures are taken to increase income, the future looks bleak. JR to send TR/TW info re bucket mill expenditure.

4.2 J & H Mitchell Invoice: Trustees approved the annual invoice from BCT's solicitors.

5. Administration

5.1 AGM: Trustees approved the draft minutes from the 2024 AGM.

5.2 AGM Feedback: TR was thanked for steering the AGM which was well received. Trustees agreed to consider selling the Ord to fund future income generating projects. RD to investigate this with a local architect with a view to obtaining outline planning permission for development of the land.

5.3 eBay Fund Raising: Deferred to November's meeting.

5.4 MTB Insurance: RP to investigate the level of cover provided by the Trustee Liability Insurance.

5.5 BCT Phone: Trustees agreed to leave BT and operate the answerphone from a mobile number. RP to action.

5.6 Community Meetings: RP to reschedule.

6. Administration

6.1 Fishing Beat Boundary: Trustees agreed to the amended boundary. TR to liaise with Finzean and Ballogie estates.

6.2 Commonty Phone Mast. Trustees noted the contents of a phone call from Cornerstone indicating that the mast would probably not go ahead due to funding issues.

6.3 Souter's Shop: TW reported a meeting about conservation has occurred, and grant applications to HES and the Lottery Fund are being submitted. Lease proceedings and listed building consent have started and Neighbourhood Watch are on board.

6.4 Bucket Mill: The Doors Open weekend was successful with £148 taken in donations. Regarding Owen Bushell, Stan should be spoken to first, then Owen can apply for a heritage grant to draw up a lease and for initial training.

6.5 Inspiring Aberdeenshire Award: SL reported on his acceptance on behalf of BCT of the award from Aberdeenshire Council for 25 years of working on behalf of the community.

7. Manager's Report

7.1 TotalEnergies: TW reported that TotalEnergies have cleared the Coffin Road.

7.2 Paths: Guy Haslam is organizing a maintenance day for local paths, and is working with FCA to investigate extensions to the path network. This would involve a path going across land that BCT manages south of the Knowes. This was approved by Trustees, who were supportive of these plans whilst noting that BCT has no finance available for this initiative so any improvements must be cost neutral.

8. AOB

8.1 TR indicated that he would be stepping down as a Trustee, but will continue as a director of BTCo. New Trustees are required and current Trustees should make inquiries of suitable candidates.

9. Meetings

8.1 Trustees agreed to meet on Tuesday 19th November 2024, 7:15pm Old School.

8.2 ND agreed to Chair this meeting.

Signed..... Date…….....