BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Zoom Board Meeting

19th November 2024

Trustees Present: Nancy Davidson, Simon Lindsey, Robert Dinnie, Liz Bracegirdle, Alison Bell.

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

1. Introduction

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

1.2 The Trustees recognized Toby Rider's input over the last 6 years and noted that he would always be welcomed back on the board.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The minutes of meeting of 1st October were agreed and will be signed when the board next meets in person.

3. Matters Arising

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

4. Administration

4.1 The Ord: RD informed the Trustees that he had met with an architect at the site and the process of obtaining pre-approval for site development should be straightforward and low cost, allowing the site to be marketed without a detailed plan. Trustees agreed on this path and asked RD to progress it with the planners.

4.2 Handover from TR: Following TR's departure, Trustees decided to revert to the old system of electronic communication, i.e. emailing of board papers rather than OneNote. ND will approve TW, JR and RP's invoices. RP to contact TR to discuss Just Giving and QR Code emails. Trustees agreed that there should be a Trustee charged with BTCo liaison - to be discussed in December.

4.3 J & H Mitchell: Trustees decided to retain Sarah Brown as BCT's solicitor. RP to action.

4.4 Financial Position: Trustees heard that it is unlikely that BTCo will be able to provide any meaningful income to BCT over the next five years. It was noted that Balfour Forest was purchased for commercial reasons and should remain as a source of income for the Trust. SL to discuss BCT's position with a local Transition Manager to obtain impartial advice. RD to document and share a discussion he had with an architect re The Old School.TW to set up an Easyfundraising account for BCT.

4.5 Community Meetings: SL reported on the recent BPLG meeting and suggested using the reps as a sounding board for BCT's future plans. Ballogie residents were keen to join a Souter's tour in December. RP to initially email the ETBK/BACA/BCT members rather than call a meeting, noting that if there are any issues that require face to face contact, a meeting can always be arranged.

4.6 Path Network: Guy Haslam has applied for funding from Aberdeenshire Council and the Paths Group will meet after the result is announced. Any new paths will be the responsibility of FCA.

4.7 LB's Christmas Cards: These are available to buy at £2.50 each, all profits to BCT.

4.8 Finzean Christmas Fair: Noted that this is on 24th November at Finzean Hall.

5. Projects

5.1 Souter's Shop: ND reported that all the bats have been excluded from the SS. Heritage Group members are going to record all the items on the shop side, followed by the items in the workshop. This will reduce costs associated with the conservator.

6. Manager's Report

6.1 Bucket Mill: TW reported that Owen Bushell wants to apply for a grant to create a Community Interest Company, registered either at the Bucket Mill or The Old School, and draw up a short term lease. There will be costs associated with this, but these should be outweighed by reduced maintenance costs. Trustees approved this course of action. TW to approach the Estate to involve them in any developments.

7. AOB

7.1 Remembrance: AB suggested that she approach Guy Haslam to inquire whether he would be amenable to posting his Remembrance addresses on BCT's website. Approved.

7.2 New Trustees: The need for new Trustees was discussed. RD and SL to liaise further.

8. Meetings

8.1 Trustees agreed to meet on:-

Tuesday 17th December 2024 on Zoom, 7:15pm. AB to chair
Tuesday 14th January 2025, Old School, 7:15pm. LB to chair.
Tuesday 11th February 2025, Old School, 7:15pm. RD to chair.

Signed..... Date…….....