BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting

14th January 2025

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

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

1. Introduction

1.1 Acting Chair LB welcomed the Trustees and team to the meeting.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The minutes of meeting of 17th December were agreed and signed. The outstanding minutes from October and November 2024 were also signed.

3. Matters Arising

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

3.2 Financial Advice. A local transition manager has offered to attend the February meeting to give impartial advice. SL to invite.

4. Finance

4.1 End of year figures : JR provided and explained the figures from 2024. Trustees were concerned that BCT's income from the forests has all but dried up. A review of the financials should take place at the March meeting.

5. Administration

5.1 The Ord: It was confirmed that there is no key for the Ord. The use of the Ord as a bothy was explored but considered impractical in the current economic climate. RD to keep trustees informed of progress.

5.2 Souter's Shop : To obtain grants, BCT must have a lease on the land. Trustees were made aware that there is a 10 year lifespan on grants, meaning that should the Souter's Shop not continue to operate, the grants must be repaid. RP to contact Jamie Reid to ascertain timescales and possible invoice deferment.

5.3 Grassroots Heritage: Trustees agreed to attend the Grassroots Heritage Roadshow at the Barn in Banchory on 22nd March. LB to reply.

6. Manager's Report

6.1 Bucket Mill: AB, TW and RP to meet via Zoom w/c 20th January to discuss the lease.

7. Forests

7.1 BTCo: Trustees were made aware of The Community Woodlands Association, which supports woodland groups. BCT to request a meeting with BTCo to help trustees understand the forest plans and felling/thinning programmes. RP to invite, preferably before the next trustee meeting.

8. AOB

8.1 Commonty. Self-seeded Scots Pine trees need cutting back on the North Hill tracks. Trustees approved of the suggestion to sell wonky Christmas trees from the Commonty this December.

8.2 Aboyne Games. Trustees agreed to attend the Games again this year. RD to arrange.

8.3 New Trustees: RD to arrange for one potential candidate to be shown around BCT's properties and RP to send another relevant literature.

9. Meetings

9.1 Trustees agreed to meet on:-

Tuesday 11th February 2025, Old School, 7:15pm, RD to chair.

and Tuesday 11th March 2025, Old School. 7:15pm, SL to chair.

Signed..... Date…….....