BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting

20th May 2025

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

Apologies: Robert Dinnie.

In Attendance: Toby Rider (BTCo), Rick Paul (Secretary to the Board).

1. Introduction

1.1 Welcome. Toby Rider from BTCo addressed the meeting following email discussions last week about ATA track work in Balfour. TR confirmed that ATA always asks BTCo's permission before any activity in Balfour and that all maintenance costs associated with the tracks are covered by ATA. With good design and appropriate signage, the risk of accidents is as low as reasonably practical. By maintaining the tracks to the best possible standard and managing the risks associated between MTB users and other forest users, the landowner's liability is reduced as it can be shown that all due precautions have been taken.
TR confirmed that whilst MTB tracks are now a feature of Balfour, it still remains a commercial forest and the public are excluded when any forestry work is happening.
To facilitate better communication in future, TR would be happy to have a BCT trustee on the BTCo emails and group chats.
TR stated that BTCo does not need to show a profit, just retain sufficient funds to cover day to day expenses, so all revenue from forestry operations not needed for repairs and restocking will go to BCT.
TR was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting.

1.2 Introduction. Acting Chair AB welcomed the Trustees and team to the meeting, noted one apology and two items for AOB.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The minutes of meeting of 22nd April 2025 were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Fire Safety: The smoke detector and emergency lighting checks were carried out for April 2025, and the annual service was completed on the fire extinguishers.

4. Finance

4.1 Management accounts: The trustees were grateful to receive rent and all back rent from BTCo and noted that reserves have been used which will need to be re-allocated when conditions allow.

5. Administration

5.1 Directors' Identification: All directors were asked to obtain a personal identifier code and pass to RP.
5.2 AGM: All trustees were asked to ensure their reports have been sent to TW by the meeting on 24th June. LB to compose the 'Letter from the Chair'.
5.3 The Ord: No update.

5.4 Souter's Shop: The conservators' report is complete, and is now on hold until funding is secured for the next stage. ND to discuss a possible press release with TW.
5.5 Bucket Mill: Trustees noted with appreciation all the work Owen Bushell had done at the mill.
5.6 Forests: Trustees noted TW's report on the latest situation.
5.7 Finzean Leases: AB/SL to offer to attend the next Finzean Community Association meeting to appraise the association of the position BCT finds itself in.
5.8 New Trustees: Held over until the June meeting.
5.9 Volunteers: TW is arranging to meet two new volunteers in the first week of June.

6. A.O.B.

6.1 Chair: Trustees were asked to consider reverting to a permanent chair rather than the current rotating chair. To be discussed at the June meeting.
6.2 Games: There will not be enough trustees to man the stall at the Aboyne Games this year. RP to inform RD.

7. Meetings

7.1 Trustees agreed to meet on:-

Tuesday 24th June 2025, Old School. 7:15pm, LB to chair.
and Tuesday 22nd July 2025, Old School, 7:15pm, SL to chair.

Signed..... Date…….....