BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting

24th June 2025

Trustees Present: Liz Bracegirdle, Simon Lindsey, Robert Dinnie, Alison Bell (item 4.8 onwards).

Apologies: Nancy Davidson.

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

1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction. Acting Chair LB welcomed the Trustees and team to the meeting noting one apology and one item for AOB.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The minutes of meeting of 20th May 2025 were approved with the proviso that discussions regarding item 1.1 will continue. They will be signed by AB at the next meeting.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Fire Safety: The smoke detector and emergency lighting checks were carried out for May 2025.

4. Administration

4.1 Chair: LB was elected Chair for a period of 12 months.
4.2 BTCo: SL volunteered to join the BTCo Board for a period of 12 months. RP to inform BTCo directors. LB noted that there was Piri Piri in Slewdrum that needs clearing and that the Ord track was severely overgrown. Any work would need to go through BTCo as lease holders.
4.3 Directors' Identification: Ongoing.
4.4 Soup Kitchen: The future of the Soup Kitchen is under review for future consideration.
4.5 AGM: BCT's financial position is to be added to the Letter from the Chair. All other reports are to be emailed to TW by the end of the month. Prior to discussion at the next meeting, LB to draft how best to approach potential assets sales at the AGM.
4.6 Bucket Mill Lease: Trustees asked to review the draft lease with a view to adding a 'review' clause. TW will forward the draft lease. To be discussed at the next meeting.
4.7 The Ord: Following the positive Council pre-approval, RD to contact Burnett and Reid to obtain a valuation.
4.8 Souter's Shop: Fund raising continues. RD and LB to contact potential donors.
4.9 Forests: TW to inform Savills that the sale is on hold pending members' approval.
4.10 Finzean Leases: TW inform Finzean Estate that BCT will not be renewing the leases in their current form. BCT is waiting on Roy Cowie for an invitation to the next FCA meeting with a view to finding an acceptable compromise.
4.11 New Trustees: RD to contact a potential trustee.
4.12 Doors Open: The Bucket Mill will open on Sept 20th and 21st. Owen Bushell will cover the 20th. Volunteers are required for the 21st. To be discussed at the next meeting.
4.13 Fire Precautions: Volunteers are required to turn back cars at the sawmill should fire break out up the Commonty. To be discussed at the next meeting.
4.14 Old School: LB to approach the head teacher, Mr Cormack, to gauge interest in a breakfast club and/or after school club.

5. Manager's Report

5.1 Fair Work Policy: RP was elected as the Individual Voice Channel representing the workers' views to ensure that workers are treated fairly and equitably.

5.2 North East Mills Group: The next Zoom meeting is on 7th October via Eventbrite. TW to email the information to Trustees.

6. A.O.B.

6.1 Souter's Shop: The next fund raising open days are 13th and 14th July.

7. Meetings

7.1 Trustees agreed to meet on:-

Tuesday 22nd July 2025, Old School. 7:15pm, SL to chair.

and Tuesday 26th August 2025, Old School, 7:15pm, RD to chair.

Signed..... Date…….....