BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting

7th October 2025

Trustees Present: Nancy Davidson, Robert Dinnie, Roy Cowie.

Apologies: Simon Lindsey, Liz Bracegirdle.

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

1. Introduction

1.1 ND welcomed RC onto the board, noted two apologies and two items for A.O.B.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The minutes of the meeting of 26.8.2025 were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising

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

4. Finance

4.1 Management Accounts: Trustees reviewed the accounts for qtr 3, but deferred decisions due to the unknown position with regards to income from Slewdrum and Balfour harvesting. BTCo to be invited to the November meeting for an update. TW to action.

5. Administration

5.1 AGM: Trustees noted that the AGM went smoothly and was well attended. Trustees recommended using existing B2C2 and Finzean avenues of communications to begin with rather than starting a new group.

5.2 New Trustees: RD to consult with a new co-option possibility and show them around the BCT sites, whilst TW to contact another two potential candidates to suggest that they join in advisory capacities to understand how BCT works and see if they feel that they could contribute positively to the group.

5.3 Book Keeper: Trustees thanked Jackie Robertson for her positive role over the last two years and wished her luck in her new job.

5.4 OSCR: Trustees approved Sarah Brown updating the M and As. RD and LB to provide Director's Codes asap.

5.5 Mills: There were two applicants for the Mills Manager role, and after a full review the position was offered to Owen Bushell who accepted. Trustees approved the settling of Sarah Brown's invoice. Water abstraction applications are with SEPA. RP to recirculate OB's proposal for the whole of the mills complex and trustees will discuss further in November.

5.6 Souter's Shop: Phase 2 – decanting of the contents is about to start. Firstly, volunteers need to be trained on techniques and consequently a handbook is being prepared. A standard chest freezer is required. Trustees and team volunteers are required to clear the Old School middle room on Tuesday 21st October at 9:30 a.m.
5.7 The Ord: This is still on sale. TW to notify BTCo that unless BCT hears to the contrary, adjacent pathways will be cleared.
5.8 Strategic Plan: To be reviewed at the December meeting.
5.9 Tree Maintenance: TW to contact Robin Callander to inspect with Doug Boyle.
5.10 Charity Trustees Event: TW to contact Sarah Brown to accept her offer of a talk on charity law, not just for BCT, but for the community as a whole.

6. Manager's Report

6.1 Slewdrum: There is a locked barrier on the fishing track. Trustees confirmed that they had not given permission for this. TW to pass this on to Robin Callander.
6.2 Deeside Way: Permission for the Deeside Way to pass over BCT land was never finalised. TW to follow up.
6.3 Wildfires: The Wildfire Group is meeting at Glan Tanar. BCT's firefighting role is to man the sawmill to keep the F.o.B road clear for firefighting vehicles.
6.4 Bucket Mill: There are non-bucket related items in the mill. RC to investigate.
6.5 Trustee Responsibilities: RD offered to be the BCT/BTCo liaison trustee. This has freed up SL to the Mills representative. Both were thanked for their increased involvement.

7. A.O.B.

7.1 Geology: Dave Foster has requested that he bases his work on an LPP for Feughside CC on a BCT publication 'The Geology and Geomorphology of Birse by Martin Johnson, 2007'. As the publisher, BCT had no objections but stressed that he should get permission from the author.
7.2 Attendance at local meetings: Trustees would be happy to attend local meetings if appropriate. Alternatively, a note could be sent outlining current activities.

8. Meetings

8.1 Trustees agreed to meet on:-

Tuesday 4th November 2025, Old School. 7:15pm, LB to chair. This meeting will concentrate on BTCo.

Thursday 4th December 2025, Old School. 7:15pm, SL to chair. This meeting will concentrate on the Strategic Plan.

Signed..... Date…….....