BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting
4th November 2025

Trustees Present: Nancy Davidson, Robert Dinnie, Liz Bracegirdle.

Apologies: Simon Lindsey, Roy Cowie.

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

1. Introduction

1.1 LB welcomed everyone and noted two apologies.

2. Forests

2.1 Trustees discussed forest related matters, particularly BTCo's transparency and their compliance with the conditions of their leases.

3 Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

3.1 The minutes of the meeting of 4th October 2025 were approved and signed.

4. Matters Arising

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

5. Administration

5.1 Mills: Trustees discussed Owen Bushell's mills proposal that was sent out with the agenda. They concluded that it is probably the way forward, but right now they should consolidate current projects and concentrate on the work that is going on at the Bucket Mill. TW to pose some legal queries to Sarah Brown and call another meeting if required.
5.2 Souter's Shop: There was a Zoom meeting on the 4th November, plus training next week for volunteers, followed the week after with the start of transferring the contents. Training for conservation begins in December.
5.3 The Ord: No update.
5.4 Book keeper: Trustees were told no-one had taken their initial applications further. RP to contact one possible applicant again.
5.5 New Trustees: RD to contact possible new trustee and RC to arrange an induction day, and then to see if anyone else is free. Trustees approved the appointment letter for advisors to the board. TW to contact the two applicants.

6. Manager's Report

6.1 FCC. Meeting dates are 2nd December 2025 and 3rd February 2026.
6.2 Aberdeenshire Museum Events: Dates are 13th November, RD to attend, 22nd November and 25th November.
6.3 Sawmill trees: Trustees were insistent that anyone using a chainsaw must be insured. RP to contact BCT's insurers to arrange for trustees to be insured whilst using power tools or machinery on behalf of the Trust.
6.4 Birse Community Trust Whatsapp Group: LB to set up.

7. A.O.B.

7.1 Archive: Despite interest from the floor at the AGM, no-one has volunteered to help with making the archive more visible. It was suggested that it may be better to display items in the meeting room at the Old School. This would require the primary school to remove its library books. ND to investigate.

7.2 Directors' Codes: RP stressed that BCT is behind in its duty to register its directors with OSCR.

8. Meetings

8.1 December Meeting: RP to circulate a meeting scheduler to choose a date that suits everyone. SL to chair.

8.2 January 2026 Meeting:

Trustees agreed to meet on:-

Tuesday 13th January 2026, Old School. 7:15pm, RD to chair.

This meeting will concentrate on the Strategic Plan.

Signed..... Date…….....