Birse Community Trust

Minutes of Zoom Board Meeting

13th January 2026

Trustees present:	Roberrt Dinnie, Nancy Davidson, Simon Lindsey, Liz Bracegirdle.
Apologies:	Roy Cowie, Jackie Robertson (Book keeper).
Also present:	Eleanor Craig (Advisor), Toni Watt (Manager), Rick Paul (Secretary).

1.**Introduction.**

1.1 RD welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting, noted two apologies and two items for AOB.

2. **Minutes of previous Board Meetings.**

2.1 The minutes from the meeting of 8th December 2025 were approved.

3. **Matters arising.**

3.1 The smoke detector and emergency lighting checks will be completed w/e 17/1/26.

4. **Administration.**

4.1 Mills Trustees discussed grant applications. Owen Bushell was advised right at the start that unfortunately BCT had no funds available to support the CIC, and the situation has not changed. Long term leaseholders can apply for certain grants in their own right and this should be encouraged, as should the CIC organising its own gift aid arrangements. OB's Strategy for the Mills will be discussed in March. Feedback on the CIC strategy to be directed to TW for a pre meeting discussion in February. OB's signs to be pre-approved by BCT. TW to email the lease to EC.

4.2 Souter's Appointments made: Evaluation Consultant, Digital Interpretation and Business Planner. The shop is almost empty; the workshop is still to be cleared. Scaffolding goes up in March. A programme of activities begins in March as a condition of the lottery grant. The website needs work to make it inclusive. RD to contact a local expert for advice. EC to contact the prison service to inquire about a non frost free freezer.

4.3 Website Handover meeting to be arranged between Jackie Robertson and RP, TW and EC.

4.4 Book keeper Lynne Mellis had handed in her notice. Jackie Robertson has agreed to cover for a three month period. EC may be in a position to take over and will advise when available to investigate what is involved.

4.5 The Ord It was agreed to make the site more attractive to capture the spring market. The website photographs can then be refreshed. TW contact Robin Callander to get update on path work. There was fly tipping on the path leading to the Ord. RC is aware.

4.6 New Trustees RD to contact a potential trustee and invite to next meeting. Any site visits can take place after this.

4.7 WhatsApp Group This is now operational. LB to regularly add punchy items to maintain interest.

4.8 Meeting Room ND to contact the primary school to discuss their books that are currently in the meeting room.

5. **Manager's Report.**

5.1 Trees at the sawmill. No response from Trees Are Us in Drumoak yet.

6. **A.O.B.**

6.1 Padlock It was suggested that a padlock be fitted to the gate by the Ord to prevent unauthorised access. This would have to involve the Estate and BTCo.

6.2 Forests LB to inquire whether the trustees could be advised about forest matters at a future meeting.

7. **Future Meetings.**

7.1 Trustees agreed to meet on:

Tuesday 24th February 2026 Old School 7:15pm ND to chair.

Tuesday 24th March 2026 Old School 7:15pm LB to chair.

Signed…… Date……..