Birse Community Trust

Minutes of Board Meeting

21st April 2026

Trustees present: Nancy Davidson, Simon Lindsey, Roy Cowie.

Apologies: Liz Bracegirdle, Eleanor Craig, Robert Dinnnie.

Also present: Jackie Robertson (Book keeper), Toni Watt (Manager), Rick Paul (Secretary).

1. **Introduction.**

1.1 ND welcomed everyone to the meeting, noted two apologies and one item for AOB.

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

2.1 The minutes from the meeting of 24th March 2026 were approved and signed.

3. **Matters arising.**

3.1 The smoke detector and emergency lighting checks were completed for March.

4. **Finance**

4.1 Accounts: JR presented figures for 2025 and qtr1 2026. The trustees approved the figures but requested that grants be removed from operating profits to make the bottom line more relevant. It would also be useful if a new spreadsheet could be created for the Souter's Shop to separate this from BCT's usual day to day spending. It would be helpful if this could be available for the June meeting.

4.2 Banking: ND and SL signed the banking forms to enable EC to access BCT's accounts. Trustees were informed that the Council now require sight of the 2025 accounts to apply the business rates relief on BCT's properties.

4.3 Callendar Trust: Trustees were grateful for a donation of £500 recommended by Rev John Forbes.

5. **Administration.**

5.1 Bucket Mill. RC and SL had a productive meeting with Owen Bushell, with a follow up meeting due 25.5.2026. Trustees approved the Letter of Support.

5.2 Turning Mill. TW is waiting a reply from Donna Duncan re proof of ownership.

5.3 Old School. Items possibly containing asbestos have been removed.

5.4 Souter's Shop: The windows have been removed and sent for restoration. The building has been stripped of its outer boards and covered in protective OSB. The builders are starting in May.

5.5 Annual Report. The following topics are allocated:- Souter's - ND, Mills - OB (TW), Forests - Toby Rider (RP), Intro - SL, Photos - TW. Drafts by next meeting please to enable TW to co-ordinate.

5.6 BCT Website: RP to send website instructions to SL.

5.7 The Ord. RD advises that another potential buyer has shown interest.

5.8 BTCo. Trustees thought that as sole owner of BTCo, it would be entirely appropriate for a BCT Trustee to be on the board to provide continuing liaison. TW to write draft response to BTCo and circulate.
5.9 North Hill. Waiting reply from Ballogie to TW's email.
5.10 Social Media Guidelines. Held over to May's meeting.
5.11 Info Boards on Community Path. RC to investigate.
5.12 Sawmill Sluice. RP to email Davie Hector, and possibly contact Edwin Third at the River Dee Trust. TW to be kept informed.

6. **Manager's Report.**
6.1 Trustees noted the Trans Caledonian Event being held in Balfour Forest in September.

7. **A.O.B.**
7.1 M and A's. Trustees approved the amendments to the M and A's provided by Sarah Brown.

8. **Future Meetings.**
8.1 Trustees agreed to meet on:

Tuesday 26th May 2026 Old School 7:15pm RD to chair.

Tuesday 23rd June 2026 Old School 7:15pm SL to chair.

Signed…… Date……..