Birse Community Trust

Minutes of Board Meeting

23rd June 2026

Trustees present: Simon Lindsey, Robert Dinnie, Nancy Davidson, Roy Cowie, Eleanor Craig.

Also present: Robin Callander (BTCO Advisor), Toni Watt (Manager), Rick Paul (Secretary).

1.**Introduction**.

1.1 Robin Callander addressed the meeting regarding the possible boundary changes at Slewdrum.

He explained that the 20yd boundary line originally in the Sasines had been superseded in 1996 by the map based Land Registry, and therefore the boundary line was set in 2006 when BCT bought the forest. The flat land by the river is invaluable to BTCo for forestry operations and the Estate do not need for fishing, plus the Estate added extra land around the fishing hut. The way forward is to instruct J and H Mitchell to pause in order for this all to be clarified. Trustees agreed to ask RC to send an email to J and H, copying in TW, to confirm that the boundary is in the Land Registry which will confirm BCT's position.
If this proves to be the case, then BCT can explain to the Estate that the position had been misunderstood and that there is no need for any changes, whilst possibly offering a piece of land around the fishing hut as a gesture of goodwill.
The Estate has asked for servitude access down the fishing track which is not unreasonable. The trustees agreed to RC acting as go between to make clear BCT/BTCo's rights to access BCT land.
At this point RC was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting.

1.2 SL then welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted four items for AOB.

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

2.1 The minutes from the meetings of 21st April and 26th May 2026 were approved and signed.

3. **Matters arising.**

3.1 The smoke detector and emergency lighting checks were completed for May 2026.

4. **Finance**

4.1 Accounts: EC is liaising with Jackie Robertson to achieve a smooth handover beginning next week. Trustees reviewed the draft accounts prepared by James Milne. They queried the £100,528 unrestricted funds as it was thought this may contain grant funds for the Souter's Shop. RP to query with Richard Christie.

4.2 Banking: EC now has access to BCT's bank accounts and will investigate how best to manage Souter's and Mills' funds to enable easy monitoring.

5. **Administration**.

5.1 Bucket Mill. A further meeting with Owen Bushell is scheduled for July.

5.2 Turning Mill. TW to apply to DTAS Green Shoots grant scheme for legal costs associated with the acquisition of the turning mill and contents.

5.3 Souter's Shop. The windows are in; no major problems have been identified to date so completion is on target for the end of August. Volunteers are still keen and about ¼ of the contents have been processed. The freezer van will be arriving on Monday 6th July and volunteers are required to help load. Thought should be given to an opening ceremony.

5.4 Fire and Helicopter Authorisations: RC has put a box in the Sawmill with equipment for volunteers to sign in etc. In case of fire on the Commonty, only the Senior Fire Brigade Officer in Charge has the authority to call out the helicopter.

5.5 Annual Report. Trustees approved TW's draft but asked that RP checked last year's report and edit to bring goods for sale etc up to date.

5.6 BCT Website. SL has made changes to update current trustees and can make other changes if requested.

5.7 The Ord: The original interested party has asked to discuss the boundaries; RD is the liaison trustee.

5.8 BTCo. RD and RC will attend the Slewdrum visit and subsequent AGM on 28th June, and will be the liaison trustees with BTCo.

5.9 East Sawmill Cottage. Nothing further to report.

5.10 North Hill: After the Deer Management Meeting, BCT queried the lack of progress with the North Hill Management Agreement and was told that Stuart Young was ready to discuss but Abbie Nicol was on maternity leave and not available until October. TW to see if it is possible to get the parties to sign separately.

5.11 Articles of Association. Draft v2 approved. RP to inform Sarah Brown.

5.12 New Trustees. RC has approached one member from Finzean who is interested.

6. **Manager's Report.**

6.1 Red Deer. Malcolm Nicol is setting up a Whatsapp group comprising Ballogie, BCT, Birse and Balfour to monitor and communicate red deer movements. This was approved by trustees.

6.2 Pétanque. The Boulers o' Birse queried whether they could use BCT's car park for their games but trustees decided it was not practical.

6.3 Soup Kitchen. A resident asked whether the Soup Kitchen would be available as an art studio, but unfortunately it is currently an archive store and subject to other long term plans.

7. **A.O.B.**

7.1 Microsoft 365. Trustees approved a new £3 per month charge to access Microsoft Office programmes

7.2 Companies House: RP to ask Sarah Brown to send EC the necessary forms to register her appointment as a trustee.

7.3 Fire Risk Assessments. RP to investigate the position with all BCT's properties. RD to ask Andrew Nicol if there is a risk assessment in force for the Kirk.

7.4 Info Boards on Community Path. RC has collected the boards from the Estates Office, and they are currently in the meeting room.

8. **Future Meetings.**

8.1 Trustees agreed to meet on:

Tuesday 21st July 2026 Old School 7:00pm ND to chair. (Note 7pm start)

Tuesday 25th August 2026 Old School 7:00pm RC to chair. ---“”---

Signed…… Date……..