Birse Community Trust

Minutes of Board Meeting

26th May 2026

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

Apologies: Eleanor Craig.

Also present: Toni Watt (Manager), Rick Paul (Secretary).

1.**Introduction**.

1.1 RD welcomed everyone to the meeting, noted one apology and two items for AOB.

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

2.1 The minutes from the meeting of 21st April 2026 were approved.

3. **Matters arising.**

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

4. **Finance**

4.1 Accounts: The handover from Jackie Robertson to EC is scheduled for the end of June. TW/RP to liaise to identify any outstanding unpaid invoices.

4.2 Banking: RP to follow up on the Virgin banking forms to enable EC to access BCT's accounts.

5. **Administration**.

5.1 Chair. For expediency, trustees agreed to appoint RC as notional Chair of Trustees.

5.2 Bucket Mill. Owen Bushell has rewritten the AHF report. Comments to be fed back by Friday 29th May. OB is actively looking for a Mills Manager (3 yr post) for the Bucket Mill and possibly to develop the Sawmill site. There may be positions available for a blacksmith and a trainee later in the year. RC to contact the Estate to inquire whether land to the east of the Bucket Mill may be available. The weir requires planning permission in order to repair, as part of the Bucket Mill heritage rather than an addition to the site.

5.3 Turning Mill. TW/RP to investigate the DTAS Green Shoots grant scheme to fund the acquisition of the turning mill and contents.

5.4 Souter's Shop: Surface cleaning continues. The builders are on site and the big window is being restored. Not all the items in the shop will be cleaned, just enough to form a coherent display.

5.5 Fire Procedure and Authorisations: In case of fire on the Commonty, BCT's role will be to man the Sawmill and prevent access up the forest road. A boxed kit of hi-viz jackets, traffic cones, and paperwork to be kept in the open sawmill. The fire contacts list needs to be verified, and RP to contact Lycetts to confirm who has the authority to call out the helicopter.

5.6 Annual Report. Trustees approved TW's draft report.

5.7 BCT Website: TW to send Sitecut contact details to SL, who will ensure the site itself is up to date.
5.8 The Ord. RD to contact BTCo to request that the site is cleared of large trees and is made to look more like a plot suitable for a house.
5.9 BTCo. There is to be a site meeting at Slewdrum Shooting Greens at 4pm on 28th June, followed by a directors' meeting at The Old School. TW to confirm with BTCo.
5.10 Transfer of Land at Slewdrum Forest to Ballogie: TW to send courtesy copy to BTCo and confirm agreement with Jamie Reid.
5.11 East Sawmill Cottage. Under consideration.
5.12 North Hill. No response received re Robin Callander's proposal. RD/TW to attend the deer management meeting on 28th May, and ask about the outstanding North Hill Agreement.
5.13 Social Media Guidelines. Comments on TW's draft by 29th May.
5.14 Info Boards on Community Path. RC to collect boards from the Estates Office and put in the Archive.

6. **Manager's Report.**
6.1 Resubmission of Bucket Mill VAT invoices. Trustees decided against this proposal as it was unclear if it was practical or legal.

7. **A.O.B.**
7.1 BTCo Agreement. TW to examine the agreement between BCT and BTCo to ascertain when the BTCo accounts will be available for scrutiny.
7.2 New Trustees: All to consider any possible candidates.

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

Tuesday	23rd June 2026	Old School 7:15pm	SL to chair.
Tuesday	21st July 2026	Old School 7:15pm	RD to chair.
Tuesday	25th August 2026	Old School 7:15pm	RC to chair.

Signed…… Date……..