Birse Community Trust

Minutes of Board Meeting

18th August 2026

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

Apologies: Robert Dinnie, Rick Paul (Secretary).

Also present: Toni Watt (Manager), Alison Kerlogue

1.**Introduction**.

1.1 RC welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted two apologies. RC welcomed Alison Kerlogue, to sit in the meeting.

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

2.1 The minutes from the meetings of 21st July 2026 were approved and signed.

3. **Matters arising.**

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

4. **Finance**

4.1 Accounts: EC reported that Richard's questions had been answered and a new set of accounts should be issued promptly. VAT issues need to be resolved, and this may hold up the signing off for the accounts. AAB have been appointed to look into VAT issues.

4.2 Finance:.EC issued an analysis of transactions for account 1 which were studied and the financial position noted. We are awaiting Souter's grant funding payments urgently to help cash flow. TW to follow up. Trustees reminded to use Easyfundraising when making online purchases – TW to forward link.

5. **Administration**.

5.1 AGM. RC noted that the AGM is postponed until the account's situation is resolved.

5.2 Fishing Boundary. Robin Callander is taking on negotiating the fishing boundary with the estates on behalf of BCT

5.3 BTCo. RD and RC attended a positive meeting and AGM on 28th June. RP to contact BTCo to query why BTCo considers that BCT does not need insurance for Balfour mountain bikers. No response so far, to be discussed further when RC is back from holiday.

5.4 Bucket Mill: Owen is busy with work on the weir with volunteers. RC met with him and he is happy with progress. Trustees approved the volunteer position of Mill Project Manager for Owen and agreed that grant applications in BCT'S name need to be countersigned by EC or RC. Owen to apply for funding for the bus garage and Turning Mill roof repairs, once the legal proceedings are completed for the Turning Mill.

5.5 Turning Mill. Sarah Brown has been asked to start legal proceedings to confirm ownership of the Turning Mill contents and buildings. Photographs of contents sent to accompany paperwork.

5.6 Souter's Shop. The building work on the Souter's Shop is complete with a final site visit with the contractors on 28th August. Conservation work on the contents continues with the volunteers who have received more training by AOC Archaeology this week. The Conservation Burden is now with HES solicitors.

5.7 Annual Report: The body of the report is complete but is waiting for 2025 annual accounts figures.

5.8 Website TW to forward Souter's social media updates to SL to add to the website. The website needs to be accessible for the grant funders, TW to get a quote from Sitecut and apply for funding.

5.9 The Ord. RD sent a report that we have had some interest in the Ord and this has resulted in an offer coming in below the asking price, RD to negotiate.

5.10 North Hill NHMA – RC to phone Stuart Young to discuss progress

5.11 Fire Risk Assessments. Trustees approved the amended Souter's Workshop fire risk assessment and approved purchase of firefighting equipment.

6. **Manager's Report.**

6.1 TW noted that she will be stepping down in Spring 2027.

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

7.1 RC raised finishing the rotation of chairs and RC to chair future meetings unless absent. To be discussed when all trustees are present.

8. **Future Meetings.**

8.1 Trustees agreed to meet on:

(Note 7pm start)

Tuesday 15th September RD to chair.

Signed…… Date……..