

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting 20th August 2019

Trustees Present: Guy Haslam (Chair), Nancy Davidson, Alison Bell, Hedge Shand, Jonathan Kitching, John Hector.

In Attendance: Eoghan Cameron (Manager), Rick Paul (Secretary to the Board).

Apologies: Toby Rider, Jane Winton (Administrator).

1. Introduction

1.1 The agenda was confirmed and apologies noted.

2. Minutes of Previous Board Meetings

2.1 The minutes of meeting on 18th June 2019 were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 The smoke detector and emergency lighting checks for June and July 2019 were completed.

4. Finances

4.1 Management Accounts: Trustees reviewed and approved qtr 4 estimates and their effect on year end totals.

5. Properties and Projects

5.1 Old School AHF Bid: The Community Consultation showed marked enthusiasm for the project and also support for the proposed flexible design. Sian Loftus will produce a full report covering the funding opportunities for the next Board meeting in September.

5.2 History and Heritage: The Vinegar Bible has been relocated in Aberdeen City archives. The book launch has been postponed. New date to be advised by ND.

5.3 e-bikes: AB had a useful meeting with Mid Deeside Community Trust and gained valuable information on the practicalities of running and maintaining a fleet of e-bikes. EC to inquire whether any locals would be prepared to get involved.

5.4 Wood Ants Meeting: 18 people attended the visit which was considered a huge success.

5.5 Balfour Forest and Paths: The bike trail inspection by JK resulted in no new issues. Aberdeen Trail Association's request to manage the trail is under review.

5.6 BTCo: Scottish Woodlands have been appointed as BTCo's Forest Agent. They are reviewing current forest plans in Slewdrum and Balfour, and writing a new forest plan for the Community.

5.7 Signs: Signs for Corsedardar and Finzean Community Path and Woods have been previously approved. The Community sign was approved with minor changes to the wording, and it was agreed to produce two identical signs located at the Finlets and at the Fire Sign.

5.8 Website: Two proposals have been received, with Sitecut being the preferred choice. EC to investigate adding e-commerce to the site at some future juncture.

5.9 Broadband: Trustees agreed to reinstate broadband at the Old School for one year. RP to action.

- 5.10 Photos: Trustees were reminded of the need for photographs for the Annual Report. AB to ask Paul Chapman for pictures from the Wood Ant visit.
- 5.11 Community Cider: EC outlined the proposals from Common Weal which were either BCT planting 600 trees and producing its own cider, or a much smaller scale planting becoming part of a collective under the Common Weal banner. EC to investigate further.
- 5.12 Open Doors (14-15th September): AB and GH offered to marshal the event at the Water Mills, while Sian will be volunteering at the Old School.

6. Any Other Business

- 6.1 Natural History Group: AB reported that the Natural History group was due to meet soon.
- 6.2 Slewdrum Track: This needs to be swiped. GH to email TR,
- 6.3 Community Path: The Trustees agreed to donate £200 to the Parent Teachers Association to extend the path directly into the school grounds.
- 6.4 Soutar's Shop: RP was asked to close the window blinds.
- 6.5 Old School: AB to talk to EC regarding advertising the availability of the Old School for community uses.
- 6.6 Archive: Sian Loftus is due to hand over the archive to AB next week, noting that AB has little experience in archiving. GH pointed out the archives were linked to the Old School project.
- 6.7 Rubbish left by the Feugh. EC informed Trustees that the Facebook entry had 62,000 views and 360 comments.

7. Meetings and Visits

- 7.1 ETBK/BACA/BCT Annual Meeting: Now rescheduled for August 29th. ND, JK and GH to attend for BCT.
- 7.2 Board Meetings: Future board meetings will be on 17th September, 14th October with the final meeting for 2019 being on 19th November.



17th September 2019

Signed.....

Date.....