

BLAIRMORE VILLAGE TRUST

DRAFT Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held on 7th June 2015

PRESENT: The following board members were in attendance: Agnes Harvey (Chair); Pat Lynn (Minute Secretary); Catherine Rae, Lorraine Whitton, Carolyn Stewart, David McKenzie and Bill MacKinnon.

Members of the Public: Jenny Waine, Moira and Ian Martin, June and Gordon MacDonald, George McLellan. Janice Hampson, Morag MacKinnon and Becky Beer and APOLOGIES from Isabel Brown, Sue Hutchinson, Dorothy McLellan, Douglas Hendry and Tom Whitham.

The Chairman welcomed everyone.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 1st June 2014, were confirmed as a correct record, and signed by the Chairman.

2. THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT:

It has been another very busy and productive year and my thanks and hopefully those of all of our members and the wider community, go to all of the Board members and our key supporters who have worked hard throughout the year and at key events. They are a talented and dedicated bunch of unsung heroes!

Since our last AGM, when we were on the cusp of securing the land, we did actually finalise the purchase in June 2014. We thank you all and a great many others for helping us. The support that we had from this local community, the Scottish Land Fund, The Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park, Scottish Government and our local Argyll & Bute Council all played an important role in helping us to collectively achieve this purchase on behalf of the local community. Legally BVT is the land owner but as a Community Interest Trust, we are all very clear that in reality we are just the custodians of the land, holding it in trust and for the benefit of the local community. Any and all action that we take in relation to the land, we do so only in consultation with the community

and hopefully reaching a consensus where possible. We are in our second and final year of the 'Land Fund' obligations.

After the land purchase was completed, we were offered the opportunity to purchase the land privately owned by Catherine Rae, that sits between the hall and the field and also extends out behind the hall. The District Valuer estimated it at £15k; and we have entered into a two year lease arrangement to use the land now with a right to buy within that time if we can raise the necessary funds. We are hopeful that this will be achievable.

We were also approached in summer 2014 by Steve and Sylvia Boyce, the owners of Gallimaufry, to explore what interest we may have in purchasing the gallery and/or the old bakehouse behind it. The property has recently been put on the open market and we are exploring our options should a private purchaser not materialise

We have held a longstanding view that with a community which is as small as ours, that it is important to try to integrate the work of the Hall Trust with the work of the Village Trust to ensure that we collectively achieve what is best across the community. To this end we have had at least two meetings together and have recently agreed to have a representative of each attend one another's meetings. We believe that it is important that the development of the hall and of the land around it is done in a collaborative and mutually supportive way; and we hope that in strengthening our links, better outcomes will be achieved for all.

No annual report would be complete without some mention of Santa's visit to Blairmore. We are particularly grateful to Mr & Mrs Claus for their tireless support and the delight that they bring to the hundreds of children and adults who visit each year. Alongside Santa & Mrs Claus, our core team of elves have been taking on this massive challenge for 8 years and the older that we all get the more challenging this becomes! In addition to its popularity, the event raises approximately £3,000 each year and makes an important contribution to our funds. We have recently launched an electronic survey amongst a sample of visitors to identify what the most important elements of the event are for them. Our Board will be considering these results later this month to see if and how it may be possible to continue to delight people at the festive period but reduce the volume of hard work that goes into it. It's a watch this space but we will soon know.

We have a busy year ahead and will highlight our plans a little later in the meeting. Happy to take any questions or comments. Agnes Harvey.

3. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The Financial Statement covering the period 1st July 2014 to 30th April 2015 showed a closing balance of £17,962.31 plus a cash balance of £135.51. (A full statement is lodged with these Minutes)

Our accounts for the year ending 30th June 2014 have been lodged with Companies House.

4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The following officers, who were willing to serve for another year, were duly re-elected:

Agnes Harvey, Pat Lynn, Lorraine Whitton, Catherine Rae, Carolyn Stewart, David McKenzie and Bill McKinnon.

RESIGNATION OF OFFICER:

Johnny Allan has stepped down.

5. THE YEAR AHEAD: The Chair reported:

There is still a mountain of activity for us to progress in this coming year.

Our Summer Raffle will help raise important funds and we are very grateful to the artist who has donated the major prize for this.

We are holding a Blairmore Summer Celebration on Saturday, 25th July and we hope that this will be well supported. The date is close to the Pier's 160th anniversary and will double up as a celebration of such a long history. It's incredible to think that 10 years have passed since the pier was re-opened.

Throughout the year we will continue to progress the work on the land and hopefully have a clear and supported name for it. Today and at our event on 25th July we are inviting people to indicate their initial preferences so that we can then choose the three most popular names to take forward to a formal ballot.

We will pursue funding opportunities to hopefully purchase the land around the hall offered by Catherine Rae and also finalise our exploration of the opportunities presented by Steve and Sylvia.

We need some specific admin help. Pat Lynn has been ably taking on the production of our minutes and some other admin secretarial duties. Pat

needs to reduce her volume of work and keep a healthy balance in her life. Last year we agreed to hire a Treasurer and we have benefited greatly from this. So we need to find someone who can take on these admin tasks for us. We would like to offer this as a paid role if we can find a suitable volunteer. If anyone is interested could they please have a chat with Pat or any of the members here today.

If you would like to be more involved in the work of the Trust in any capacity please do let one of us know.

Jenny has done some brilliant work keeping our web-site up to date and has now modernised this to make life easier for us all. A big Thank You to Jenny for all of her work. There is so much going on it is difficult to keep everyone informed so if you can it may be helpful to keep an eye on our website.

Agnes Harvey

6. LAND VERGE PLOTS

Small (mainly verge) plots of land have been offered to the householders living across from them. As the plots serve no useful purpose to us it seemed sensible for us to offer them on the basis of just recouping any legal costs incurred. There is quite a bit of interest and David and Pat have had a recent meeting with a local solicitor who may be able to work alongside BVT's solicitor to come up with a combined cost for each transaction. Once this information is to hand it will then just be necessary to gain written approval from the Regulator of Community Interest Companies before the transactions take place (recent telephone conversations do not envisage any problems).

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There being no other business, the Chair brought the meeting to a close and invited all present to take refreshments followed by two short historic films:-

**The Princess Street Church Outing to Blairmore 1937
CRSC Piers – Visit to Blairmore.**

(These Minutes to be signed at the Annual General Meeting 2016)

