

BLAIRMORE VILLAGE TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting
held on Tuesday February 23rd 2016
In Blairmore Hall at 7pm

PRESENT: Agnes Harvey (Chair); Pat Lynn; Catherine Rae; Carolyn Stewart; Jim King, Anne Garrod.

IN ATTENDANCE: Becky Hothersall (minutes).

1. APOLOGIES: Lorraine Whitton; David McKenzie.
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Catherine Rae declared an interest in Item 10 (Scottish Land Fund update).
3. MINUTES: Minutes of the meeting of the 24th November were confirmed as correct and signed by the chair.
4. MATTERS ARISING: None.
5. FEEDBACK ON FESTIVE LUNCH: It was agreed that the event had been very successful with excellent catering and a lot of positive feedback from attendees. It had showed the need for local events for the community to congregate around. The school had made a great contribution and the young musicians were extremely impressive. Thanks were extended to all involved. There had been problems with the breaker for the heating tripping repeatedly. Conditions behind the hall were waterlogged and improvements to the safety of the electricity supply would be needed for any future marquee events. We should investigate installing electric hook-ups as the landscaping project progresses.
6. LAND PLOTS UPDATE: David reported via Agnes that BVT's solicitors have confirmed that letters are ready to go out to landowners and should be sent next week. Some local correspondence has referred to the transfer of ownership as 'sale of land': this terminology should be avoided as it incorrectly implies that BVT is making a financial gain from disposal of the plots.
7. WHITE'S BRAE: Agnes had a site meeting with Nigel Potts of Argyll & Bute Council. He considered that responsibility for the upkeep of the road and associated structures lies with the frontagers. A&BC had agreed to provide a specification by today of what the council would charge to repair the road and culvert (very approximate estimate ~£2500), but this had still not been received. Jim would like to view the site to give an engineer's perspective. ACTION: Jim, Agnes and Catherine to meet to show Jim the site within the next fortnight. Agnes proposed that BVT facilitates quick resolution of the problem by commissioning and paying for the repair, with two conditions. Firstly, BVT would seek partial retrospective payment from organisations with local involvement (e.g. Forestry Commission; electricity board; ACHA; A&B C). Secondly, BVT would contact frontagers, informing them that BVT would absorb the remaining cost but would *not* in so doing take responsibility for the current state or for future repairs of the road. Pat seconded the proposal; all

were in agreement. It was queried whether the businesses affected should be contacted first. ACTION: Agnes to draft a letter to inform business parties.

8. PROGRESS ON SPECIFICATION FOR FIELD/GREEN: David had requested a quotation but had not received one, so Agnes had approached Cowal Design Consultants. She brought along their quote, and the board agreed to engage their services. This piece of work will help bring the Hall Trust and BVT together to address the practicalities of the project itself.
9. COSTINGS FOR LANDSCAPE PROJECT: Agnes and Pat had applied for some funding from Tesco over the Christmas period. The application was not successful but was a useful exercise and a reminder of the need to identify accurate costs for some of the specific elements. Agnes asked for input, and Becky asked for people to identify priorities for the next part of the project. ACTION: everyone to email ideas/costs/items that they know about to Becky.
10. SCOTTISH LAND FUND UPDATE: (Catherine left the room). There is a new SLF call due in April. BVT plans to apply to buy the land adjacent to the Village Hall, which it is currently leasing from Catherine. Agnes intends to have the application ready when the call opens and hopes it will all progress quickly.
11. VILLAGE HALL: No representative was present. Catherine reported that the tables, chairs and heaters had been updated and quotes were being sent out for double glazing of the existing windows. ACTIONS: Agnes will ensure she/David writes to them about the appointment of Cowal Design Consultants. Becky will publicise the Hall Trust's upcoming Cowal Fiddle Workshop event on the website.
12. DONATION FROM LOCAL RESIDENT: Catherine presented a £20 donation from a local resident.
13. YEAR END ACCOUNTS TO JUNE 2015: Agnes reported that accounts are nearly due for year to June 2015. Draft details have been received from Ian; Agnes and Pat to meet with him before submission at the end of March.
14. FUNDRAISING FOR 2016: BVT would like to hold a community event in the summer and suggestions were sought. Catherine had an idea for a picnic and will look into costs. A July date was favoured. ACTION: everyone to check and report back on other local events (Benmore; Ardentenny Walled Garden; Open Gardens; Sandbank Gala; Hall Trust; KCC; B&KCDT; weddings) to avoid clashes or capitalise on visitor numbers.
15. CORRESPONDENCE: Following the heavy winter rains, Janice Hampson had written to BVT (as an adjacent land owner) to express her concerns about water runoff flowing down and damaging the High Road. It was agreed that maintenance of drainage is the responsibility of frontagers but that BVT did not object to local residents diverting runoff onto the triangle if it was clear that this would drain into the ditch at its lower boundary.
16. AOB: i) HAMILTON'S BRAE (omitted from agenda). Japanese Knotweed on the brae was sprayed twice by Wise Property Group in autumn 2015 but follow-up

clearance does not seem to have been completed. This is needed before Ross Macarthur can complete the contract to remove non-knotweed vegetation. ACTION: Becky to ask David to check progress with Wise and then with Ross. It will also be necessary to update neighbours on the clearance BVT has commissioned, to clarify boundaries and remind owners of their responsibilities. ACTION: Agnes to draft letters to Diarmid Villa and Duart Tower.

ii) BVT emails. Becky reported that she has been looking into taking on oversight of the BVT email address from Jenny Waine. This requires arranging new hosting. Jenny has indicated that she is happy to assist, but has unfortunately broken her wrist so would like to delay the transfer until it has healed and she is able to type more comfortably.

17. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was proposed for Wednesday 23rd March, at Anne Garrod's house.