

# BLAIRMORE VILLAGE TRUST

Minutes of Board Meeting  
held on Tuesday May 17th 2016  
In Blairmore Hall at 7pm

PRESENT: Agnes Harvey (Chair); Pat Lynn; Catherine Rae; Lorraine Whitton; David McKenzie; Carolyn Stewart; Anne Garrod.

IN ATTENDANCE: Becky Hothersall (minutes).

1. APOLOGIES: Jim King.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Catherine Rae declared an interest in Item 12 (ii) (Scottish Land Fund application update) and was not present for this item.

3. MINUTES: Minutes of the meeting of the 23<sup>rd</sup> March were confirmed as correct and signed by the chair.

4. MATTERS ARISING: Agnes has received a financial update from the accountant; discussion of finances will be included on the agenda of the June meeting.

5. LAND PLOTS UPDATE: Of the five letters returned undelivered, Agnes has delivered one, and one responded via Lorraine. The others will be marked as no response. We are now ready to move to the next stage.

6. BLAIRMORE FIELD/GREEN UPDATE: A report has been submitted by Cowal Design Consultants. David met their representative on site and explained that BVT needed to assess the land to progress landscaping plans. CDC thus dug test pits, examined existing electric, water and sewerage supplies and carried out a radon test. The report concluded that any proposed development should be built off the rock (not blasted) as the ground is solid and soil depth shallow. No problems were identified due to existing utilities. David has discussed the findings with Bruce Marshall (Blairmore Hall Trust). Concern was registered about the standard of workmanship by the contractors in reinstating boulders and turfs, that they had failed to fill in one of the test pits, and about the disinterested response of CDC when these problems were reported. The test pit has now been infilled. **ACTION: David** to send an electronic copy of the report to **Becky**, who will have four colour copies printed and distributed. These will also be made available at the AGM.

7. BLAIRMORE HALL TRUST: No representative was present. Their AGM will be held on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. **ACTION: Becky** to check whether she has been sent an agenda and circulate if so.

8. COMMUNITY SUMMER EVENT 2016 UPDATE: Becky, Pat and Agnes carried out wildflower planting and seed sowing with Strone Primary on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May. Some of these mini gardens will be displayed at the event. Catherine and Jim have scattered wildflower seed (donated by the Glory Hole) on the bare earth where the test pits on the field/green had been reinstated. Catherine has been trimming paths through the grass. There was some discussion whether the initial idea of a 'community picnic' would be confusing, and what food and activities should be available. **ACTION: Agnes** to draw up a programme and assign jobs. **Agnes** to send Winston Churchill's email details to **Becky**, who will enquire about their availability to attend.

9. WHITE'S BRAE: Bruce has spoken to the council but still had no response. **ACTION: Agnes** will chase Nigel Potts again.

10. HAMILTON'S BRAE CLEARANCE: David reported that Ross MacArthur did not think there was a problem with debris running off onto the pavement. His men will clear the remaining vegetation when Wise Group indicate that they have finished spraying. Wise recently reported that they have visited the site and did not currently need to carry out any spraying but would monitor regrowth and treat as needed. There was uncertainty about whether this would mean MacArthurs could finish clearing the remaining vegetation from the route this summer. **ACTION: David** to check.

11. CORRESPONDENCE: *i)* Pat read out a letter from a local resident who, while very supportive of BVT, had some concerns about the disposal of land plots and some aspects of the plans for the field/green. **ACTION: Pat** to write to reassure him, explain the consultation process and direct him to the materials available on the website.

*ii)* Mr R Fraser, representing the High Road North Resident's Association, has contacted Agnes asking for confirmation of when BVT will arrange for resurfacing of the High Road. Agnes reported to the meeting that earlier in BVT's history she had ascertained that no party held sole responsibility for the condition of the road; she circulated the pertinent documents confirming this. **ACTION: Agnes and David** will write to Mr Fraser to share these, and to reiterate that BVT inherited the same liabilities for the upkeep of the road as the previous owner.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS: *i)* SCOTTISH LAND FUND EVALUATION (2014-2016 period): Agnes has asked for and received an extension to the deadline to complete an evaluation to SLF. She is in the process of completing this and will ask for input as needed, then circulate the document for comment.

*ii)* SCOTTISH LAND FUND 2016 ROUND: Highlands and Islands Enterprise are responsible for the first phase of the application. They requested and have received a letter of support from the Hall Trust. It had also been suggested that community support for the current application should be ascertained. Pat has been doing this. So far 16 positive and one neutral response have been received. Kilmun Community Council, Blairmore Galleries and Blairmore Heritage have also registered their support. The valuation needs renewing as it has expired. **ACTION: Agnes** to pursue with the District Valuer – no significant change in value is anticipated. It is hoped that the application will be completed by autumn.

*iii)* David announced that Scottish Water will be attending KCC's AGM /meeting in July (7<sup>th</sup>?) to speak about sewerage upgrades. Septic tanks are planned for Kilmun and Strone but not Blairmore. Arrochar CC will be attending due to local problems caused by sewage from Loch Long. David will speak on behalf of BVT and himself but encouraged other Blairmore residents to attend.

*iv)* David told the committee that the Kilmun Mausoleum project currently has urgent problems with a shortfall in funding and asked BVT to consider making a donation to help ensure its short-term continuation. **ACTION:** to be included in the agenda of the June meeting.

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: 1pm on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June at Blairmore Hall, prior to AGM at 2pm.