

Blairmore Village Trust

Minutes of board meeting held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016

in Blairmore Hall at 7pm

Present: Agnes Harvey, Pat Lynn, Carolyn Stewart, Bill McKinnon, Anne Garrod, Catherine Rae, David McKenzie, Bill McKinnon. In attendance: Becky Hothersall (minutes).

**1) Apologies**

Jim King; Chris and Helen Armitage

**2) Declarations of conflict of interest**

Agnes declared a potential conflict of interest in one of the sites mentioned in Item 9.

**3) Appointment of officers**

Following the AGM on June 5<sup>th</sup>, Agnes expressed a wish to stand down as Chair but as no other nominations were forthcoming, it was agreed unanimously that Agnes would stay on as Chair for another year, providing continuity at a key time in the Trust's efforts. It had been mentioned at the AGM that BVT does not have a Treasurer. It was agreed that Catherine would provide an interface with the accountant. **Action: Pat** to arrange for Catherine to be a signatory for cheques.

**4) Minutes of June 5<sup>th</sup> meeting**

The minutes were approved by the board and signed by the chair.

**5) Matters arising**

None.

**6) Community summer event 2016**

Final plans were made for the summer event on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. Pat had contacted Scottish Water (Paul Milligan) about road restrictions that would be in place on the day; Paul gave assurances that disturbance would be minimised and Scottish Water offered to pay for an advert in the Dunoon Observer about the event. Paul mentioned various ways in which Scottish Water could assist with BVT's work in future, including provision of volunteers; donation of large-diameter pipe offcuts and of baking for future fundraisers. With reference to the sewerage upgrade excluding Blairmore, he suggested that a petition could be organised for presentation to Scottish Water, to demonstrate local concern. It was agreed this was a good opportunity for BVT, and David has prepared some wording. **Action: Agnes** to produce a petition; this to be circulated at the event and presented at the KCC meeting (with Scottish Water) on July 12<sup>th</sup>.

**7) Hamilton's Brae clearance**

The latest knotweed treatment report from Wise Group shows good progress. Ross MacArthur has indicated that he is reluctant to clear and level the site until Wise Group gives the all-clear due to the risk of contaminating equipment with knotweed, so access will not be possible for the foreseeable future. Becky mentioned seeing a small amount of knotweed growing on the site. **Actions:** as the treatment is now in the monitoring phase, **David** to pass records to Becky for filing. **Becky** to report any regrowth seen to Wise if the next report does not record it.

**8) Scottish Land Fund**

- i) 2016 round: nothing to report and Agnes has outstanding action to progress.
- ii) 2014 round: Benmore & Kilmun Community Development Trust is leading on the housing related projects and David is the BVT link with this. David gave an update on affordable housing sites identified in Blairmore. In light of high demand for the new flats at Finartmore, the Housing Association is looking for more sites locally, and a decision whether to go ahead with purchasing any sites in Kilmun, Strone or Blairmore will be made following a management meeting in July.

#### 9) Blairmore Green/Field

David summarised a response from the National Park to a pre-planning enquiry from BVT, which was submitted to allow BVT to obtain valuations from Savill's for the plots on the triangle and next to the Old Ticket Office, both with and without planning permission. The response was helpful and allows BVT to progress this work. Colin Potter (architect) had also given an estimate of the costs to prepare a planning application for the holiday lets, drainage etc on the green/field site. This would be around £5k. Valuations are required to enable BVT to consider any appropriate options. **Action: David** to update Colin on the response from the National Park.

#### 10) Land plots

David reported that Malcolm Goddard had not responded to his calls or emails. David had asked him to proceed with the accepted plots following the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting and was disappointed by the lack of progress. **Action:** David to pursue again this week.

#### 11) White's Brae

The council has still not provided the spec for the culvert promised in January/February. Catherine proposed filing in the potholes at the junction of White's Brae as a matter of urgency. The purchase of materials for this purpose (approx £60) was approved. **Action:** Catherine to purchase and apply pothole filler.

#### 12) Correspondence

Mr Ron Fraser had sent a letter reporting a historic landslide within the grounds of Carantec, below the High Road. It was agreed that this is not an issue for BVT as the land in question is not owned by the trust.

#### 13) Any other business

- A request from David on behalf of Kilmun Mausoleum project (omitted from the June 5<sup>th</sup> agenda) was discussed. The Mausoleum project is in short-term financial difficulties and a donation was requested. Some concerns were expressed about this being an appropriate use of BVT funds. A discussion followed about BVT's needs for and commitments associated with its existing funds. **Action:** It was agreed that a financial update would be required from our Accountant before any decision could be made.
- Grow Wild UK had sent an email about purchasing autumn crocuses. **Action: Becky** to investigate.
- Pat proposed BVT sponsor a memorial plaque on the pier for Ann Robinson, recently deceased, in recognition of the significant contribution to our Fund Raising activities - this was approved.
- Anne asked for ideas for a Christmas event to be sent to Becky for inclusion on the August agenda. **Action: Everyone.**

#### 14) Date and time of next meeting

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm in Blairmore Hall. **Action: Becky** to check availability.