

Minutes of the Blairmore Village Trust meeting

Held at 7pm in Blairmore Village Hall on Tuesday 13th September.

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

David had to leave early to attend the Kilmun Community Council meeting so Item 5 (Land Plots) was discussed first, after which David left.

1. Apologies

Chris and Helen Armitage; Bill MacKinnon.

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Minutes of August 9th meeting

These were accepted and signed by the chair.

4. Matters arising

None.

5. Land Plots

David provided an update following a meeting with Colin Potter (architect), Stewart Mearns (National Park) and a representative of Savills to view the Triangle and shore plots. The attending parties recognised the scope to seek planning permission for the Triangle plot; further technical information is still required and BVT will continue to gather information to help inform a decision on possible plans for this site.

6. Tesco funding

Blairmore Village Trust has been shortlisted for a Tesco 'Bags of Help' award for the 'Blairmore Landscape Project' alongside two other projects. This will result in funding of between £8000 (3rd place) and £12000 (1st place), depending on the numbers of votes cast by shoppers at Tesco stores. Voting will take place in Greenock and Port Glasgow stores between the 31st October and 12th November. **Actions: Becky** to publicise on the website and create an A4 poster for local display (**Pat** to provide text). **Agnes?** to write a piece for the Dunoon Observer 23rd Sept edition and contact Dunoon Community Radio.

7. Community Hub

The Community Hub will go ahead on a trial basis for 6 weeks on a Thursday from the 6th October to 10th November. The village hall will be open for 2 hours (10am -12noon) for anyone locally to meet.

Action: Pat to send poster to **Becky** to publicise on website.

8. Keep Scotland Beautiful

a) Certificate: following on from a very positive visit by Wendy Murray from KSB's 'It's Your Neighbourhood' scheme in July, BVT has been awarded a "Level 3 – Advancing" certificate to recognise its progress in turning the field/green into a community asset (there are 5 levels, from "Establishing" to "Outstanding"). Pat has written an article for the Loch and Glens newsletter to update the community on this and other BVT achievements. **Action: Becky** to add the information

from Pat's article about the KSB scheme to the website. The group discussed that prior to BVT purchasing the field/green, it was in danger of being sold on to a private owner/developer; it was acknowledged that some people locally may be unaware of this context and that it would be helpful to add a 'history' section to the website. **(Any actions??)**

b) Seminar: As part of the above scheme, BVT has been allocated two free places at a seminar and workshops designed to support groups engaging in community greenspace projects. It will be held in Stirling on the 26th October. Pat will attend. **Action:** anyone else interested to contact her to arrange.

9. White's Brae pothole repairs.

Catherine reported that she had tried the new type of filler on the worst pothole on the upper corner of White's Brae and it appears to be working well. This one hole required both bags of filler and bitumen liner (provided by Ross MacArthur) so the expense to repair all the serious potholes would be considerable.

10. Scottish Water correspondence

David has been in further correspondence with Scottish Water about the upgrading works at Strone and Kilmun and lack of inclusion of Blairmore. This is ongoing and has been published on the website.

11. Christmas events

The proposed concert at Kilmun could not be arranged on the chosen date due to availability of the band. It was decided not to pursue a combined event but to focus on a smaller Blairmore event, provisionally on Friday 9th December (*N.B. Update: date changed to Friday 16th, at Younger Hall*).

Action: Pat to add this to the article for Loch and Glens.

12. BVT 10th anniversary in 2017

Action: Everyone to think about possible ways to celebrate and mark this anniversary and get in touch with Pat. To be discussed at next meeting.

13. Hall Trust

Minutes had recently been received and were noted.

14. Correspondence

a) Agnes had received two replies to the letter she wrote on behalf of BVT, regarding the proposed closure of Struan Lodge. NHS Highland sent a holding reply; Viv Hamilton (Dunoon Hospital) sent a detailed response. There will be a public meeting on Monday 19th September at Dunoon Grammar School at 6.30, which several members indicated they would attend.

b) Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) contacted Agnes to inform BVT of a Freedom of Information request it had received for any correspondence between BVT and HEI or the Heritage Lottery Fund, relating to Investing in Ideas and Scottish Land Fund grants. BVT confirmed that it had no concerns about this information being shared in its entirety to make the process totally clear.

15. AOB

a) Jim noted that the ash tree adjacent to his property was beginning to regenerate. Pat assured him that part of the Tesco grant plans included turning the remaining truncated limbs into a chainsaw sculpture and that this would include killing the tree.

b) Becky reported that the wildflower trays planted by the school had largely finished flowering for the year and suggested that the perennial flowers could be consolidated into a couple of larger tubs. She offered to do this using large polystyrene tubs (donated by Janice Hampson) and place these next to some of the wooden benches. **Action: Becky** to purchase compost and re-pot plants.

16. Date and time of next meeting

Wednesday 9th November at 7pm, at Saltire.