

## Minutes of the Blairmore Village Trust meeting

Held at 7pm at Saltire, Blairmore on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

Present: Anne Stephenson, Pat Lynn, Catherine Rae, Agnes Harvey, Jim King, Chris Armitage, Carolyn Stewart. In attendance: Becky Hothersall (minutes).

### 1. Apologies

David McKenzie, Bill MacKinnon

### 2. Declarations of interest

None.

### 3. Minutes of November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting

These were accepted and signed by the chair.

### 4. Matters arising

a) Volunteers for reinstatement of ditch: Catherine has tried to contact Simon Richardson (Glenfinart Walled Garden) to discuss possible volunteers but hasn't yet heard back.

b) Business plan: Agnes and David have not yet had a chance to work on this but will arrange to do so (also investigating the possibility of using National Park volunteers for practical work).

c) Community Hub: the hub continues to be well attended with around 25 people present last week. The Hall Trust have wished us well in continuing the venture but feel unable to offer any discount so the cost will continue to be covered through BVT funds and voluntary donations. It is providing valuable social contact to some users and so will continue over the festive period. Carolyn mentioned that Stone Primary also runs an occasional pupil-led community tearoom. Difficult access at the school means it would be difficult to run a combined Community Hub and tearoom event there but it was agreed that we could help advertise the school's events.

### 5. Tesco Bags of Help update

Pat reported that BVT has been awarded £8000 from this fund. Agnes and Pat have some outstanding paperwork to complete, and a proportion of the money should be available at the end of January. We will be assigned a staff member from Groundwork to help and monitor progress. Everyone expressed their delight at the outcome and thanked Pat and Agnes for their efforts with the application.

### 6. Christmas event

Plans for the event on the 16<sup>th</sup> December were finalised, including agreed contributions from other local organisations. Chris Armitage reported that Lucy has designed individual goody bags for each of the school children.

### 7. Beautiful Scotland

Pat, Agnes and Catherine met will meet with representatives from Envirokirn tomorrow to share lessons from their participation in this scheme.

#### 8. Hall Trust (standing item)

The Hall Trust has been a great help with printing and distribution of publicity for the Christmas event. The Trust's fundraising appeal for the Blairmore Hall clock was discussed. It was agreed that BVT would make a donation, with the amount to be decided after the Christmas event.

#### 9. Correspondence

Dorothy had been in touch to thank BVT for the flowers.

#### 10. AOB

a) Overhanging hedge: Agnes explained that she had encountered problems accessing the pavement at the empty Blair Atholl house on the Shore Road because of a severely overgrown hedge.

Discussion with Diane at the community hub revealed that the hedge is an *Escallonia* species and that now is an appropriate time to prune it. Agnes suggested BVT pay Diane to do this in a professional capacity, in order to improve pedestrian safety. This was agreed. **Action:** Agnes to arrange, including volunteers to remove the resulting debris.

b) Funding for learning visits: Agnes noted that the Scottish Government has a funding stream for community groups and social enterprises to undertake learning visits to other groups. Money must be spent by March 2017. It was agreed that BVT should apply, and should invite someone from the East Haven group (who participate in Beautiful Scotland and provided useful advice over the summer). **Action: ??**

#### 11. Date and time of next meeting

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January** at 7pm in Blairmore Hall. Action: Becky to book.