

Minutes of the Blairmore Village Trust meeting

Held at 7pm at Saltire, Blairmore on Wednesday 9th November.

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

1. Apologies

Chris and Helen Armitage; Carolyn Stewart.

2. Declarations of interest

None.

3. Minutes of September 13th meeting

These were accepted and signed by the chair.

4. Matters arising

Scottish Water: David reported that preparation for the sewerage works at Strone and Kilmun is progressing and Arrochar is pursuing a technical solution to local debris. There is no progress with including Blairmore, and the only likely way forward is via political pressure, which David will continue to pursue. If Scottish Water give any indication that they will be replacing the freshwater mains pipe, Blairmore should push for sewerage provision at the same time.

5. Tesco Bags of Help update

Pat reported that after some delay and hiccups, in-store voting was now running. The Lunderston Bay project is the most local to both stores and appeared to be the most popular, with Blairmore and Kilmodan closely matched. Pat has spoken to Groundforce about selecting projects that could compete on equal terms in future. Carolyn recently teamed up with Kilmodan to do a joint interview on Dunoon Community Radio publicising both projects.

6. Lottery application update (business plan)

Agnes updated the board that the funders are happy that BVT has dealt with the conflict of interest well, and we will provide documentation of this, such as meeting minutes. A business plan is needed for the next stage – Agnes circulated a draft. **Action: Agnes and David to work plan up incorporating the board's comments.**

7. Community Hub

Pat reported that after 5 weeks of the 6 week trial, the hub was proving to be very successful, with numbers rising steadily to 14 attendees last week. New residents had come along and new volunteers had come forward to help with the landscape project as a result of the initiative; there was enthusiasm among attendees for it to continue on a weekly basis throughout the winter. Action: Pat to write to the Hall Trust to determine if the Hall Trust would work collaboratively with BVT to keep this valuable community event running. **Action: Pat to write to Hall Trust.**

8. Land plots

a) Small verge plots: David noted that only one potential owner has engaged with BVT's solicitor, though others may be in discussions with their own solicitors.

b) Large plots: David had investigated 3 questions posed at the previous meeting. 1) Cost of topographical survey: a topographical survey would cost £500-600 and a local contractor is available.

This would be needed for planning permission prior to any architect starting work. 2) Road access: Paul Farrell had told David that regulations restricting development on unadopted roads were about to change and he would keep David updated. 3) Servicing: access to services would be a condition within planning permission but would fall to the developer, working with Scottish Water.

9. Art projects: phone box and children's sculptures

Pat explained that she had been approached by Liz Bruce on behalf of local artists, who would like to use the phone box as a display space for a period of a year. They will maintain the box during this time if it is painted first. Catherine agreed to do this; BVT will pay for the paint.

Andy McClintock had been in touch regarding some sculpture workshops that he and Bill Williamson had been running with local children. They would like to display the resulting sculptures on the green/field temporarily (date in 2017 to be confirmed).

The board unanimously supported both proposals. **Actions: Catherine** to paint phone box; **Pat** to act as a point of contact with the artists.

10. Insurance review

BVT's insurance had come up for renewal at the start of November. It was decided that before next year's renewal, it should be reviewed and compared against alternatives to ensure good value for money and appropriate cover. **Action: Pat** agreed to do this; **Catherine** added that she should be able to offer assistance nearer the time.

11. Christmas event at Younger Hall, 16th December

Agnes noted that the response from other organisations in the Shore communities had been very positive. David's brother will provide a musical interlude and Strone Primary will sing songs from their Christmas show. We have been offered a discounted rate for hire of the Younger Hall as well as help in the setting up of the hall; Ardentenny Hall have generously offered to help with equipment, cooking and serving of the soup; no Blairmore Hall Trust members are available to help with the exception of Catherine but they will provide items for the raffle and tombola, do home baking, and look after the printing and distribution of leaflets in Blairmore. Several individuals have offered help with tombola and raffle prizes. Agnes suggested requesting a contribution towards the costs from KCC. **Actions: Agnes** to contact KCC; **Pat** and **Catherine** to recce the hall with Helen Giles (for decoration/equipment planning); **Becky** and **Agnes** to produce a flyer, **David** to ask Dinah for contact details of The Pier/Napier's new owners to explore car parking options. **Pat** to price up anticipated costs against budget of approximately £300.

12. BVT 10th anniversary in 2017

Agnes reported that the Beautiful Scotland seminar was inspirational and that she was keen for BVT to take part in the main Beautiful Scotland campaign – which focuses on horticulture, environment and community participation – as part of the BVT 10th anniversary in 2017. This was agreed. We have been advised to make contact with Envirokirn, and offered support from another project based in Angus.

13. Hall Trust Minutes. The Hall Trust minutes were received just prior to the meeting . BVT to write to the hall for clarification on the proposed constitution of the new hall committee. **Action: Agnes to write.**

14. Correspondence

a) National Park: Tree Preservation Orders. David circulated 2 TPO notices pertaining to properties in Blairmore.

b) Simon Richardson (volunteer co-ordinator at Glenfinart Walled Garden) has been in touch with Pat, offering to help make connections between various local organisations.

15. Any other business

a) Hamilton's Brae: David had enquired with Wise Group about clearing debris from the site and been assured that this was now permissible. Ross MacArthur is reluctant to proceed until the knotweed treatment is certified as completed, due to the risks of contaminating machinery. Treatment is a 3 year process, which started in 2015 so should be completed during 2017. David suggested a working group could remove vegetation in the interim, which could include volunteers from the National Park and/or Community Payback team. **Action: Agnes and David to investigate options.**

b) Planter near Blairmore sign: Following a request from KCC about flower troughs along the shore Pat said that she and Joe would take over planting and maintenance of this tub.

c) Catherine thanked the group for the letters written in support of Struan Lodge, which were thought to have been helpful.

d) Jim had looked into risk assessments for play equipment intended for the field/green, but could only create generic assessments until specific items were chosen. Pat gave Jim some current information about street and play equipment.

e) Catherine suggested that volunteers were needed to reinstate a ditch to reduce water run-off onto the bottom of the field/green. This was agreed and will be the request will be advertised at the community hub; Simon Richardson may know of other possible volunteers (**Action: Catherine to ask Simon**).

16. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 6th December at 7pm at Saltyre.