

## Minutes of the Blairmore Village Trust meeting

Held at 7pm at Blairmore Hall on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January.

Present: Anne Stephenson, Pat Lynn, Catherine Rae, Agnes Harvey, Jim King, Carolyn Stewart.

In attendance: Becky Hothersall (minutes).

### 1. Apologies

David McKenzie, Bill MacKinnon, Chris and Helen Armitage.

### 2. Declarations of interest

Item 5 – Catherine Rae left the meeting for the duration of this item.

### 3. Minutes of December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting

These were accepted and signed by the chair.

### 4. Matters arising

a) Festive lunch. This was a very successful event with great co-operation between the local organisations. Feedback from participants was also very positive with the live music and children's participation particularly appreciated. Attendance was good at around 70 people (this is a useful figure to record for future catering purposes). After costs, a profit of around £170 was raised. A donation of £40 was made to each of Ardentenny and Kilmun Hall groups, leaving £90 surplus. It was agreed to earmark the surplus for the next joint community event. Ian Giles took photos and has offered to provide us with a copy. **Action: Anne** to take a memory stick to collect photos from Ian.

b) Tesco aware. A 75% advance is due by the end of January. We have also been assigned a mentor. The money is to be spent by the year end. As it transpires that some play equipment would need planning permission, it was agreed that some of the specific items would be replaced with equipment for "Snow White's garden" – namely a wendy house and picket fence.

c) Finance. At the last meeting it was agreed that a donation would be made to the Blairmore Hall clock repair, with the sum to be decided after the festive event costs were known. The group agreed to make a donation of £50. **Action: Pat** to collect a cheque from Ian and deliver to the Hall Trust.

### 5. Scottish Land Fund Stage 2 application

Agnes has submitted the application for purchase of the land adjacent to the hall, including amended business plan and memorandum and articles of association (see Item 8). As the sum is relatively small, SLF has informed Agnes that the outcome will be agreed by their management committee rather than a full grant panel. Indications so far are that SLF is happy with the revised information and a response is expected soon.

### 6. Community Hub

Pat has been looking into sources of funding for the hub. One option is Awards for All, but it is not clear whether BVT would be eligible because it is an established organisation and previously held funding via the Investing in Ideas grant. **Action: Pat** to contact AfA to discuss.

#### 7. Beautiful Scotland campaign

Agnes intends to submit BVT's application by the end of February, and circulated planning documents. A portfolio setting out actions and activities is required by July. Workshops are provided in May to help prepare for this. Beautiful Scotland assessors will visit between 31 July and 13 August.

Catherine, Pat and Agnes have done a site walk and are about to meet with Envirokirk for a second time to have a look at the site and identify issues of interest/concern. The boundaries of the site are the Blairmore signs at either end of the village. They have also arranged a meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> February with A&B Council, Forestry Commission and the National Park. A further site meeting has been arranged at Hamilton's Brae on the 17<sup>th</sup> January with Wise Group to discuss what can be done about clearance. We are awaiting a response to a request for assistance from the Community Payback team; locally, Jim King and Pete Beer have both indicated that they are keen to help clear the vegetation and help make the site passable. Carolyn offered to contact the Grab Trust regarding litter pickers and other equipment for beach clean-ups. **Action: Carolyn.**

#### 8. BVT Memorandum and Articles of Association

Agnes has revised these for the HLF application to make more explicit the opportunities for membership of BVT. This has meant specifying the range of postcodes (rather than describing the range of villages) and reiterating that membership of and information about the group is entirely open to all residents and businesses within these. Everyone was happy with the revisions, which represent a clarification rather than a material change. The changes will be ratified at an EGM attached to a community hub gathering – the next slot after the required 21 days' notice being the 16<sup>th</sup> February.

#### 9. Plans and dates for 2017

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb – a Mary's Meals event will be held in Blairmore Hall, and the organisers have asked whether BVT would like to hold a raffle at the same time. **Action: Pat** to organise (has items already).

Meeting dates: **Action: Becky and Agnes** to map out (via email?) and book dates in with the Hall Trust.

#### 10. Scottish Water developments.

David sent an update: there is a public consultation planned regarding the proposed works in Kilmun and Strone but no date set yet. KCC have written to SW to say that a plan for Blairmore / Loch Long properties is required. David is still away but will update BVT on his return, as we may wish to comment. (See also Item 12).

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

The Hall Trust's next meeting is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January. If Pat has not been able to collect a cheque from Ian by then, Catherine will let them know about the donation (see Matters Arising). **Action: Catherine.**

## 12. Correspondence

Scottish Water has also contacted BVT in the belief that we own a piece of land on the side of Strone Brae, where SW wishes to build a pump station/kiosk. The group agreed that BVT does not own this land. David is confirming this with BVT's solicitors. **Action: David** to report back to BVT.

A local resident has emailed to reiterate his dislike of some of the plans for the field/green. Agnes will email him the form (circulated) that BVT has produced to encourage residents to get involved in shaping and contributing to BVT's plans for the Beautiful Scotland campaign. **Action: Agnes.**

Beautiful Scotland newsletters: Becky receives these by post and it was agreed that they could be circulated at the Community Hub. **Action: Becky** to bring along.

## 13. AOB

Janice had reported to Pat that someone had placed a slab over the culvert on White's Brae (outside the Rice's house). This has subsequently been driven over and broken. Joe Lynn was able to retrieve the pieces but there are safety and liability concerns over both the hole and it being covered. **Action: ???** to add to agenda for upcoming meeting with A&B Council (see Item 7).

## 14. Date and time of next meeting

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February** at 7pm in Blairmore Hall. Action: Becky to book.