

## Balloch Village Trust

Minutes of AGM 19 September 2011

Present: Martyn Crawshaw, Evelyn Gray, Liz Green (stand in Chair), Nick Green, Hamish Johnston, Jill Johnston, Catherine MacKenzie, Jan McCormack, Phil McCormack, Gillian Spalding (Secretary), Charles Stephen, Mairi Stewart, Ian Thomson (Treasurer), Judith Thomson, Ian Williams, Susan Williams,

Apologies: Alex Bennett, Sarah Crawshaw, Duncan Gray, Willie Macleod, Donald MacNeill, James McKenzie, Melanie Smith (Chair), Kate Stephens, Ian Stewart

1. Minutes of last years AGM approved by Susan Williams and seconded by Evelyn Gray  
Any future for BVT?
2. Liz introduced the meeting by explaining that BVT had been largely dormant for the past year. Given that most projects were drawing to a close and no replacement committee or Directors had been found in advance of the AGM it had been assumed that BVT would dissolve.
3. Charles Stephen explained that BVT, being a charitable company, would be the perfect organisation to apply for new funding for the Community Woodland (up by the bus turning circle) currently owned by Balloch Community Council. In two years time the Forestry Commission will clear fell the woodland closest to Culloden Road (between the bus turning circle and the bridge) and have intimated that they would be willing to pass this land on to the community. BVT was originally set up to cater for the amenity needs of Balloch, so managing woodland as a community asset falls very much within our existing remit.
4. There was unanimous agreement that BVT should continue and that a renewed focus on woodland would be a good idea. For example a new community mountain biking group has been recently set up with the aim of encouraging responsible biking in the woodland; the BVT woodland paths map will be ready to launch later this year (see below); and concern was raised that clear felling will increase the flood risk to houses in the vicinity of Forest Drive and below.

Changes to articles 32.2 and 32.4 of BVT Constitution

5. To aid continuity of the future BVT committee it was unanimously voted upon i) to extend the permissible term of a Director's office from 2 years to 5 years with a year gap and ii) to remove the constitutional need for a third of Directors to retire each year. Advice as to process will be sought from registered office, Macleod and MacCallum. Permission will be sought from OSCR and Companies House will be provided with the amended constitution.

New Committee

6. Charles Stephen (Chair); Susan Williams (Secretary); Ian Thomson (Treasurer)

Directors

7. Staying as elected Directors are Ian Thomson, Susan Williams. Staying as a co-opted Director from Balloch Community Council is Ian Williams. New co-opted Directors are Charles Stephen and Kate Stephen. Retiring Directors are Melanie Smith and Donald MacNeill.

Treasurers Report

8. Details are available from Ian Thompson via [b.v.t@btinternet.com](mailto:b.v.t@btinternet.com). The balance currently stands at £2324. This is mainly monies from the local history booklet sales of last year.

Local History original material

9. It has not been possible to set up a dedicated local history website as hoped. Instead all photos (mostly now scanned and labelled) and original interviews will go to The Highland Council history archive. Liz, Gillian and Susan will sort this.

#### Woodland path posts

10. Melanie Smith and Ian Thomson will meet with Neil Valentine at the Forestry School to discuss post specification, location and a likely date for installation. Once this is established a letter will be sent to Andrew Howard (Managing Director) and Gareth Wymant (Woodland Manager) of Moray Estates, as well as David Jardine at the Forestry Commission, together with a copy of the proposed map leaflet to explain what is happening.

#### Woodland paths map

11. The artwork for the outside cover of the woodland map was provided by last years P6 children (following a woodland walk with the Highland Council Ranger John Orr). The final map has been laid out for printing by The Print Studio (cost £300). Gillian will circulate the draft via email for comment. A costing will be sought from Merkinch Enterprise on Grant Street for a print run of 1000. Maps will be sold through the school, local shop and possibly Tourist Office at 50p each.
12. Meeting closed with thanks to Liz and Gillian for their contributions to BVT.