

Balloch Village Trust

Minutes of AGM – 17 September 2012

Present: Elspeth Fraser, Carolyn Gethin, Hamish Johnston, Jan McCormack, James MacKenzie, Charles Stephen (Chair), Ian Thomson (Treasurer), Judith Thomson, Ian Williams, Susan Williams (Secretary), Moira Unwin

Apologies: Willie Macleod, Gillian Spalding, Kate Stephen

Minutes of last year's AGM: Approved by Ian Williams and seconded by Hamish Johnston.

Matters arising

1. Woodland ownership: the Board confirmed that they had agreed that, as there was no advantage in transferring ownership, the Community Council would retain ownership of the Community Woodland and the Woodland would be managed by BVT.
2. Local history book: all stock has now been sold. It could be reprinted if there was sufficient demand but a new edition would require a considerable investment of time and effort.
3. Woodland path posts: Charles thanked Gillian, Melanie, Ian Thomson and Neil Valentine for the hard work in installing the way markers.
4. Woodland path map: this has been printed (500 copies) and the costs paid for by BCC and a Highland Council Culloden & Ardersier Ward Discretionary Budget grant. It has been selling well at Scotmid and the proceeds have been given to the school in recognition of the good work by the P7 pupils in designing and launching the map.

Chairman's report: Available at: www.ballochvillagetrust.com Charles noted the work done by the Board: the first Carols at Christmas; a new website; continued work on the development of the Community Woodland; and a long-term approach to planning ahead by compiling a Development Strategy. A continuing aim is to raise the membership of BVT. Unfortunately, the efforts of BVT to reregister interest in the field and register interest in Chapelton Woods were rendered invalid because the Scottish Government advised us that Balloch is now included in the Inverness Settlement Zone and considered urban. This precludes a registration under the current Community Right to Buy legislation, although this is now under review.

Treasurer's report: The balance currently stands at £1690.88. BVT assets (laptop, video camera, slide projector and screen) should be noted.

Membership of the Board

1. Charles Stephen thanked Ian Williams and Kate Stephen, standing down as BCC Directors, for their diligent service.
2. Staying on as elected Directors are Charles Stephen, Ian Thomson and Susan Williams. Joining as Directors from Balloch Community Council are Elspeth Fraser and Moira Unwin. Carolyn Gethin and Gillian Spalding were nominated and elected unanimously as new Directors. Carolyn takes over as Treasurer from Ian Thomson. James MacKenzie was co-opted as Director.

Any other business: Suggestions were put forward for increased cooperation with the School of Forestry and for individuals who might give advice on the Woodland Management Plan. Jan McCormack suggested that the community might be eligible for funding for a community project worker under the Local Enterprise Scheme and was asked to prepare a brief proposal for consideration by the Board.