

# Balloch Village Trust

## Minutes of Board Meeting, 16 January 2014

<b>1 Welcome</b>	
<p>Present: Charles Stephen (chair), Carolyn Gethin (treasurer), Susan Williams (secretary), James MacKenzie (elected), Moira Unwin (Community Council), Gary Murphy (coopted)</p> <p>Apologies: Elspeth Fraser, Ian Thomson</p> <p>Minutes of 7 November 2013 proposed by JM, seconded by GM.</p>	
<b>2 Matters arising</b>	
<p><b>Archives</b> The Hall Committee discussed the proposal to display photos of old Balloch in the Hall and asked for details of photos, frames and captions. It was agreed that Moira would liaise with Morven Reid to choose pictures and ascertain the costs and report back to the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Woodland map</b> Susan reported that reprinting costs would be £160/500 copies. Committee agreed to assess the demand and make a decision at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Play park</b> This was discussed at the Hall Committee meeting on 15.1.14. The Hall Committee are confirming with Highland Council who owns the land. Given our charitable status BVT could be involved in fundraising. Chair BVT asked for Chair BCC to liaise with Councillor Stephen.</p> <p><b>Woodland bridge</b> The Board would like to thank Sean Unwin for repairing the bridge.</p>	MU, GS
<b>3 Treasurer's report</b>	
<p>The BVT account balance is £1087. Accounts have been filed with OSCR and Companies House. Payment (£450) has been made to Ben Davies for the first part of the Woodland Plan; the second tranche will be paid by BVT and then 50% of the total cost requested from BCC.</p>	
<b>4 Community woodland</b>	
<p>BCC's comments (appended overleaf) on the Management Plan were noted and the Board worked through James' comments to Ben dated 15.11.13, some of which had been incorporated into the latest version. CS to liaise with Ben regarding the following points for consideration in the second part of the Management Plan, with return of the Plan requested in time for next BVT meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pass BCC's comments to Ben.</li> <li>2. Does Ancient Woodland status entail any specific actions, restrictions, or options for funding?</li> <li>3. Suggest that, in addition to the existing paths, one additional path bisects the area from north-west to south-east.</li> <li>4. The central area should be kept informal, possibly using logs or stumps for a sitting area.</li> <li>5. North-west entrance is messy at present - suggest planting hedge as screen to maintain privacy for neighbouring houses.</li> <li>6. Arrange a site visit (Board + BD).</li> </ol> <p>BVT also needs to keep surrounding residents informed of the plans. One of the trees on the western edge of the Woodland has been removed and the stump could be carved, similar to those on Culloden Avenue. GM repeated his request to remove the beech immediately behind his property. Susan to clarify position with Chair BCC [response: BCC will liaise next week with Highland Council Tree Officer re pruning as per Management Plan].</p>	CS

<b>5 Carols at the Christmas Tree</b>	
Despite atrocious weather, this event again attracted a large attendance. MU and SW to send photos to CS for the website. Suggestions to improve inclusion and safety included singers being on shop side of Christmas Tree, closing off the end of Cherry Park to traffic and more marshals.	MU, SW
<b>6 AOCB</b>	
Possible fundraising and community events were blueskied for when work is completed in the woodland: Easter Bunny hunts, summer fete, pumpkin parade ...	
A new Woodland rota has been prepared and will be circulated together with the report form.	SW
MU noted that Scotmid have a leaflet with details of available community funding. All Board members are asked to look out for sources of funding.	All
SW noted that we now have 61 members. Target is 120, i.e. 10% of Balloch's residents, important if legislation changes to allow registration of interest in land.	
<b>7 Date of next meeting</b>	
Thursday 20 March 2014, 7pm, 11 Meadow Road - please note change of time.	

2 December 2013, to BVT

Thank you for forwarding the Balloch Community Wood Management Plan for consideration by the Community Council.

The committee were all pleased with the initial work on the Woodland Management Plan, and agreed it provided a much needed focus to initiate the project.

It was agreed that the next stage for the plan would be for the inclusion of more practical guidance on the process for implementation in terms of

Breakdown of key tasks - identification of trees, extraction of trees, best specs for paths

A timetable for key actions - eg clearing trees or making paths, applying for funding?

Financial Considerations - a draft budget to give an indication of main costs to provide a focus for fund raising e.g. felling licences, new paths, culverts

Identify key sources of suitable funding.

As the plan still has one or two days left before completion the question was raised as to whether this information could be addressed as part of the final plan.

Best regards

Moira Unwin  
on Behalf of Balloch Community Council