

# Balloch Village Trust

## Minutes of Board Meeting, 20 November 2014

<b>1 Welcome</b>	
<p>Present: Charles Stephen (chair), Carolyn Gethin (treasurer), Susan Williams (secretary), James MacKenzie, Gary Murphy, Geoff Robson, Gillian Spalding, Moira Unwin</p> <p>Minutes proposed by CG, seconded by JM.</p>	
<b>2 Matters arising</b>	
<p><b>Beech tree</b> Tree surgeon (Roddy MacLennan) hopes to start the work in early December and will inform CS, GM and chair BCC of the date. The cost (£525) will be split between BCC and BVT. GM agreed to store the cut timber and branches until they could be sold or chipped. The cut wood is to be bagged (GM to source heavy duty bags) and offered for sale on a date to be arranged. Beech seedlings around the tree could be potted up and grown on to be planted elsewhere in the woodland.</p> <p><b>Carving of the sycamore stump</b> CS confirmed that this will go ahead in January.</p> <p><b>AGM</b> GR asked to be de-coopted from the Board and to be invited to such meetings as take place when he is in the UK.</p>	<p>CS</p> <p>GM</p> <p>All</p>
<b>3 Treasurer's report</b>	
The BVT account balance is £897. GS to be added to list of signatories.	CG
<b>4 Community woodland</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Thinning: successful.</li> <li>2. Coachman Bat Consultancy have offered to place 'log-cabin' bat boxes on stumps in the woodland for us. SW to arrange.</li> <li>3. Felling: Davie MacCulloch (DM) and Adam Johnston to be contacted to confirm when they will start felling. A site visit in October confirmed revised site of community area and which trees are to be removed. A felling subgroup (SW, MU, GS, GR) will coordinate the felling to ensure that it is consistent with woodland plan and revisions in recent site visit. CG to put DM in contact with the subgroup. The Forestry School have not responded to request for brasher/chipper to process the smaller wood. CS suggested APEX (organisation which gives offenders, ex-offenders and those at risk the necessary skills to change their behaviour and lead fulfilling lives) could help with the brashing and path work and will provide subgroup with contact details. APEX could provide tools and a lot of the materials for the path in return for a contribution for food. MU reported that Melanie Smith (MS) wants to coordinate more proactive links between the Forestry School (FS) and the community; CG to forward correspondence with George MacGregor of the FS to MU for follow up with MS.</li> <li>4. Paths: SW to arrange site visit with Kevin Fairclough of Paths for All. Also possible advice from Stewart Easthaugh.</li> <li>5. FCS plans to remove timber from the area between Community woodland and the railway via the Moray Estates tracks, with a new track probably north of the stile to link the two areas. The section east of the community woodland may be thinned but</li> </ol>	<p>SW</p> <p>CG</p> <p>CS</p> <p>CG, MU</p> <p>SW</p>

not clear felled. Concern was expressed over impact on badgers and red squirrels of proposed exit route. GR to monitor FCS' plans, timescales and modus operandi and to ask for our involvement in the post-felling woodland design.	GR
6. GM noted unlawful riding of a motorbike in the woods and was advised to notify the Police.	GM
<b>5 Woodland paths map</b>	
Additional 20 maps handed in to the shop. BVT should apply for a Scotmid community grant (£500) towards reprinting maps or path work.	MU
<b>6 Playpark</b>	
Highland Council has given permission to install a small playpark at the western end of the football field. Rachel Arkell (RA) and GS have been in discussions with a fundraiser (Allan Jones) to find funding for the project. BVT agreed in principle to act as the charitable body for funding applications provided we have governance of the project. GS to bring plans to BVT for approval and BVT should be badged on completion signs. The Board agreed to accept RA's offer to be coopted as a director of BVT.	GS GS, SW
<b>7 Carols</b>	
Thursday 18 December, 5pm, Cherry Park. 1. Mulled wine and mince pies. 2. Notify Police and request temporary road closure. 3. Ask Cadells if we could again take up their kind offer to use their kitchen. 4. School newsletter. 5. Poster, Santa, sweets. 6. Baptist Church, email BVT members, ask IAW to MC.	CS CS CS GS MU SW
<b>8 AOCB</b>	
1. CS raised the issue of increasing our membership - we need greater community representation to increase our chance of applying successfully for funds. We should keep our members informed by email and minutes and ask them to encourage others to join. GS agreed to ask Scotmid to stock membership forms and to place an item in the school newsletter to encourage parents at the school to sign up to BVT. The next AGM should consider changing the Constitution to lower the age at which residents can become full members. 2. GS to check progress of signage for well at Wellside. BCC have agreed to fund this. 3. Funding for path work should be researched when we have accurate costings.	SW GS  GS
<b>9 Date of next meeting</b>	
Thursday 19 February 2015, 7.30 pm, 11 Meadow Road.	