

# Balloch Village Trust

## Minutes of Board Meeting, 25 February 2015

<b>1 Welcome</b>	
<p>Present: Charles Stephen (chair), Carolyn Gethin (treasurer), Susan Williams (secretary), James MacKenzie, Geoff Robson, Gillian Spalding</p> <p>Apologies: Elspeth Fraser, Moira Unwin, Rachel Arkell</p>	
<b>2 Matters arising</b>	
<p><b>Beech tree</b> Roddy MacLennan hopes to do the work on Friday 27 February. If this does not happen BVT should look for someone else. GS offered to store the cut timber and branches until they could be cut to logs for sale.</p> <p><b>Carving of the sycamore stump</b> Ian Chalmers may not be able to do it this year. BVT should investigate another tree carver.</p> <p><b>Community woodland</b> Contact with Forestry School has to date not produced results so should not be pursued further.</p> <p><b>FCS felling plans</b> GR reported that the felling timetable had been postponed probably indefinitely because of the recent storm damage elsewhere.</p> <p><b>Bat boxes</b> Postponed till felling is completed.</p> <p><b>Membership</b> Scotmid will stock membership forms and a suggestion box. School were requested to place an item in the newsletter but this was omitted.</p> <p><b>Well signage</b> No progress.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>GS</p>
<b>3 Treasurer's report</b>	
<p>The BVT account balance is £884.50. CS kindly donated wine for the Carols at the Tree. GS being added to list of signatories. CG to investigate a replacement independent examiner as her contact has left Signpost.</p>	<p>CG</p>
<b>4 Community woodland</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The first round of thinning, making clearing and log benches is completed. Awaiting Davie and Adam to start next tranche.</li> <li>2. Hiring a brasher (Jewson: approx. £130 inc VAT per weekend) to process waste when felling is completed would also provide weed suppressant mulch for the area currently being cleared.</li> <li>3. Volunteers have built a row of 5 compost bins and cleared rotten vegetation from the area on either side of the path behind the forestry cottages - a total of 20 volunteers over 3 sessions amounting to about 25 hours of work.</li> <li>4. This area will need to be kept clear of bracken and nettles to allow new trees to grow. GS offered use of a petrol strimmer. Alternatively, the new growth of bracken could be bashed and nettles forked up.</li> <li>5. SW arranging Paths for All Survey and Design course - provisional date Sunday 18 May.</li> </ol>	<p>All</p> <p>GS</p> <p>SW</p>

Date should be notified to all BVT members. CS to contact Stewart Easthaugh and mountain bikers for input.	CS
6. BCC rejected CS's application for Ward Grant as they already have funding of £1000 for trees.	
7. Wide-ranging discussion of what trees to plant and when, and where to source. Consensus was that we should plant bare root trees in autumn. CS requested that a Victoria plum be bought and planted now.	SW
<b>5 Woodland paths map</b>	
No report on stocks.	
<b>6 Playpark</b>	
Board agreed that GS and RA should ask fundraiser (Allan Jones) to find funding for the project - proposed name 'Play, learn, live'.	GS, RA
<b>7 Carols</b>	
1. General agreement that road closure was excellent and should be applied for again this year.	
2. Hot chocolate or other hot drinks should replace mulled wine in future.	
3. GS requested more children's songs.	GS
<b>8 AOCB</b>	
1. Notices pinned to the boards in the woodland are being blown off. GS suggested the Youth Forum could be asked to source funding for new noticeboards.	GS
2. Membership, fund raising and noticeboards should be added to next agenda.	SW
<b>9 Date of next meeting</b>	
Wednesday 22 April 2015, 7.30 pm, 11 Meadow Road.	