

Balloch Village Trust

Minutes of Board Meeting, 13 January 2016

1 Welcome	
<p>Present: Carolyn Gethin (treasurer), Susan Williams (secretary), Mary Quemby, Gary Murphy, Gillian Spalding, Geoff Robson, Ian Williams (Chair BCC) attended for Item 6. Apologies: Moira Unwin, Rachel Arkell Chair: Carolyn Gethin</p>	
2 Matters arising	
None.	
3 Treasurer's report	
The BVT account balance is £609. MQ agreed to be added to the list of signatories (CG, SW, GS).	CG
4 Community woodland	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Four trees were felled early January and 1 windblown. Awaiting further felling behind the Brownie bench before hiring brasher and organising a work party. Purchase and planting of bare root blackthorn, dog rose, crab apple and rowan from Munro's deferred till winter 2016/17 when further brashing is completed. 	SW
5 Playpark	
RA to meet Planning Dept on site on 14 Jan to obtain decision as to whether or not planning permission is required. Awaiting equipment quotes from Ian Reid of Highland Council. Kate Stephen is coordinating land ownership and legal issues. Ward discretionary funding might be available - submit application to follow that for the Woodland.	RA, GS
6 Funding applications	
<p>Section 1 - existing western path and new lower gradient path Section 2 - eastern path Section 3 - path along northern boundary behind the forestry cottages.</p> <p>Quotes received from GF Job and Brandon. GF Job's quote is very detailed and sets out costs under the three sections above but is more than we could raise from the Ward funding. IW attended for this discussion and suggested that the proposed path width (2m) was too large for the size of the woodland. He also suggested deferring most of the work until the larger FCS area to the south is felled (1.5 to 2 years) by which time it might be possible to obtain that area by community buyout, long-term lease or a management partnership, thus giving a bigger and more interesting future project.</p> <p>The Board agreed that we should go ahead with the work this year while funding is available so that the paths are in place whatever happens to the FCS land. Preferred option is to complete section 1 and reduce width to 1.5m if possible, and improve the muddy corner at the eastern end of section 3 up to the grassy area.</p> <p>The current application should proceed as follows:</p>	

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Obtain one more quote. 2. Arrange site meetings with Brandon and JOB, GM, IW and GR and to discuss what could be achieved within the budget of £10,000 incl VAT. 3. Forward agreed amendments to the application form to MU. 4. Board decision on contractor - GM to circulate quotes by email. 5. Submit application asap. <p>Further items to consider include siting of works compound, duration of the work and timescale.</p>	<p>GM</p> <p>SW GM</p>
7 Carols at Cherry Park	
The hot mulled fruit punch was well received by both adults and children. A new grant application would need to be made to Scotmid for printing new carol sheets so it was decided to retain the existing stock.	
8 AOCB	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SW and CG to look at a better host to improve the appearance of the website. 2. Problems reported of damage caused by motor cyclists and horses in the woods. BCC rep to raise at next BCC meeting. 3. BCC rep to raise fallback position if BVT is unable to find sufficient board members in future at next BCC meeting. 4. Add succession planning to next agenda. 	<p>SW, CG GS GS</p>
9 Date of next meeting	
Wednesday 6 April 2016, 7.30pm, 59 Culloden Road.	

Deferred items:

1. **Lowering membership age**
2. **Carving of the sycamore stump:** BCC have £1000 set aside to pay for this. Decision on which tree to carve deferred till path work is completed. Trees numbered 1 and 2 to be left for later carving or siting bat boxes.
3. **Garden waste:** Chairs of BVT and BCC contacted neighbouring householders and agreed BVT should erect a post and rail fence to define woodland northwest boundary.
4. **Noticeboards:** Awaiting progress.