

Balloch Village Trust

Minutes of Board Meeting, 6 April 2016

1 Welcome	
<p>Present: Carolyn Gethin (treasurer), Susan Williams (secretary), Gary Murphy, Rachel Arkell, Donald McDonald (BCC rep) Apologies: Moira Unwin, Mary Quemby, Gillian Spalding Chair: Carolyn Gethin</p>	
2 Matters arising	
None.	
3 Treasurer's report	
The BVT account balance is £9579, which includes £9261 allocated for path works, leaving £318 unrestricted funds. Annual return for Companies House has been filed.	
4 Community woodland	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A further five trees have been felled. Chair BCC and Davie have identified further trees to be felled, noting that trees 1 and 2 are to be left and felled at a higher height for installation of bat boxes. 2. It is now urgent that we organise a work party to remove the brash before work starts on the new path. Date fixed as weekend of 7/8 May. GM will arrange brasher hire and SW will email members to ask for support. 3. BVT to offer Davie help to saw and remove felled timber before path work starts. 4. Hitrak did not respond to GM, so the Board confirmed decision to offer contract to Brandon. As there is still a £700 shortfall in funding we will not commit to the path from the bottom entrance to the woodpile at this stage (£994+VAT). GM will also check that Brandon have permission to use the parking area at the south of the site for materials storage. 	 SW GM SW GM
5 Funding applications	
<p>£9000 has been made available from the Ward Discretionary Fund, leaving a shortfall of £700 to cover the total costs. FCS can't help with funding but have suggested that CG contact the Conservancy Office in Dingwall. The Expression of Interest for the Paths for All Community Path Grant was successful, so we will submit the application to Paths for All for £700 by 29 April. DMcD reported that the funds BCC have allocated for tree carving could be reassigned if the PfA application is unsuccessful.</p>	CG SW
6 Playpark	
<p>RA presented examples of possible play equipment from the four companies that had submitted equipment quotes, all in the region £30-40,000. Awaiting Highland Council decision on planning and legal issues before any funding applications can be made or plans put out to consultation with the community.</p>	
7 Field at school and Chapelton Woods	
<p>In an email to BVT of 24 March, Chair BCC reported that he had met with Balloch Farm trustees to discuss the future of the field around the school. BCC was assured that eventually the field will come to the Community but it is unclear whether it would be sold</p>	

<p>or donated. BCC need to be ready with a plan and funding source, even in outline. The field will remain fallow for the next year. Balloch Farm trustees have offered the Community the lower part of Chapelton Woods. BCC asked BVT to consider these proposals.</p> <p>BVT agreed that the Village Trust should not take on ownership of either of these parcels of land but agreed that the land around the school would be much appreciated for future school or community use. At present there are not the resources within BVT to develop ideas for either area. DMcD to check whether BCC would like BVT to consult with its members.</p>	DMcD
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. Add succession planning to next agenda. 3. Balloch Gala, Saturday 4 June. RA to arrange for BVT to have a table. 4. Chair BCC's offer of native trees accepted with thanks, with provisional planting time of July. 5. SW to arrange AGM date for mid September. 6. Scottish School of Forestry public consultation on Culloden Forest Partnership, 28 April, was noted. Individuals wishing to attend should register in advance. 	<p>CG, SW RA</p> <p>SW</p>
9 Date of next meeting	
Probably Wednesday 8 June 2016, 7.30pm, 59 Culloden Road, depending on progress of path work.	

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.
5. **Open area at north of woodland:** 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.