

## BAILIES OF BENNACHIE BOARD MEETING 09/01/17

The meeting was held in the Community Room at TESCO Inverurie and was chaired by Jackie Cumberbirch who welcomed all present to the meeting.

Board members present – Ann Baillie, Brian Cornock (treasurer), Barry Foster, Angela Groat, Harry Leil, Jill Mathews, Iain Ralston, Rosemary Sievewright (Minutes), Helen Summers, Donna Taylor (Membership Secretary), and Andrew Wainwright.

Also present – Margaret Garden (Save Bennachie)

Apologies received from Sue Taylor and Neil Taylor (FCS)

Matters Arising from Minutes.

Proposed SSE Pylon Route. Both action groups exist

Save Bennachie - Route C The best that can be hoped for is that it can be quickly dismissed but only after the due process has taken place.

MEMBERSHIP and WEBSITE DT

Membership 2524

9 new members since last meeting.

8 x updated annual to Life.

2 x family to Life

2 x letters returned , moved away (6 members removed)

3 x Deceased

5 x asked to be removed.

1 x address changed.

1 x email change.

Bailies agreed that Family Member children, can be removed from the membership list, if they have not replied, to the letter that went out to them.

Website

Forum – Complaints over gralloch (deer entrails), being left on the hill, near tracks.

Callum replied but any further occurrences need to be reported to FCS

Events – Information needed for new events for website

E-mail – Various queries re membership and 2 re planning application for 2 holiday cottages. (See AB Update)

Facebook - now 795 likes

AOB

Set up donation page? <http://www.btplc.com/mydonate/Forcharities/> this can then be put on new membership leaflets. They will also deal with gift aid on donations given.

Bailies agreed. BC will liaise with DT to set it up.

Walk Highlands. For a sum of £49 + VAT the Bailies could sponsor a walk on their website for a year. When the walk is viewed, an advert for the Bailies is also shown. Bailies agreed but need to decide which walk (probably Bennachie Centre to Mither Tap)

Action Point for JC contact Michael Skelly, Wild Life Manager re gralloch

## PUBLICATIONS AND PLANNING UPDATE AB

### Publications

2017 Calendar – 1200 sold 300 remain which can be taken to the Garioch Heritage Centre or Bailies Events.

2018 Calendar could be dedicated in some way to James MacKay. Ideas welcome.

Bailies Book Collection. It became apparent that urgent action was required to remove the Bailies books, display units, filing cabinets and computer, from the Bennachie Centre. On 27<sup>th</sup> December with the help of BC and Myrtle Anderson Smith, the books were packed ready for removal. On 4<sup>th</sup> January, volunteer's cars were loaded and the books were transported to the Garioch Heritage Centre (GHC) On 6<sup>th</sup> January, Duncan Downie came to dismantle the display cabinets and they and the Bailies computer and archive files are ready to transport to the GHC on an agreed date next week. The locks on the filing cabinets have failed and so new filing cabinets need to be purchased The Bailies agreed to donate to the GHC a sufficient sum to cover the cost. (Approx. £2000)

JC hopes that some of the paper files can be digitised to reduce the space needed. and the Bailies must thank, (some by letter), the people who have helped with the move.

### Planning

Planning permission has been requested, by Fairview Holiday Lodges, for 2 holiday Lodges to be built, at a site near Kirkwood A similar project at Quarry Wood, had been approved in the past and proved unsatisfactory to the surroundings and the neighbours. Bailies agreed to object to this request on many grounds, (eg unsafe access, development in a proposed Special Landscapes Area, disruption to local wildlife and Biodiversity etc). AB will send an email on behalf of the Bailies.

## BENNACHIE CENTRE TRUST REPORT JM

JM attended the Bennachie Centre Trust meeting in December. There is to be a major refurbishment of the inside of the Centre, during the winter season, while the Centre is closed. As already mentioned, all Bailies Room contents and furniture, had to be removed, at short notice, to allow upgrade to flooring and the Bailies Room is to be renamed the Community Room. (Much of this was a surprise!). Jan could supply a summary of the work to be done in the centre, if required. She is collating all this years Bailie Events to be run from the Centre and also those from last year. BCT are working to achieve the aims highlighted in the Visitor Experience Survey done a year or two ago.

Action Point for JC Liaise with Jan and BCT to achieve better communication.

## TREASURERS REPORT BC

BC met SJW on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2016 for a hand over of files and information. SJW retained 2015/16 files as he needs them to finish off that report, which has to be ready for OSCR by the end of April 2017. SJW also still has some Gift Aid files relating to 2013 - 2016 which he may be planning to apply for, before handing them over.

There is meantime £65,000 in term deposits (which will mature in June 2017) and £68,000 in a current account in the Clydesdale Bank, as well as £16,000 in the Barclays Bank. Due to the present limit of bank liability being £75,000, it would be wise to transfer £58,000 from the Clydesdale, to the Barclays Account.

Online Banking is being investigated.

When the grant income comes through, DT will need to inform the insurance company used for Public liability, as the premium will probably increase.

## SAVE BENNACHIE UPDATE MG

In December we met Alex Salmond (Local MP), who was very supportive and informative about useful strategies. This means that all the local politicians and Lord Bruce of Bennachie are on board. We also met Monymusk Community Council to inform them of the current danger to the hill and to invite them to join the Alliance. The next milestone, is the award of the 2 year contracts to consultants, for working up the various route options, major publicity and marketing, is planned to coincide with this. Around 7000 flier have already been distributed, including a door to door in Insch, a similar distribution is planned for Inverurie.

Statistics Facebook 2340 likes

“ “ Website 680/690.

Current Alliance members are Bailies of Bennachie, Kemnay Community Council, Oyne Community Association, Kintore Community Council, Mountaineering Scotland, N.E. Mountain Trust, Cosmic Hill Bashers, Ramblers Scotland and Woodland Trust.

## CHAIR REPORT JC

The Garioch Sport Centre want to set up a bike trail from Inverurie to the hill and have family friendly trails on Bennachie. JC met Ian Stuart to discuss this. The Bailies are against new trails specifically for bikers and unsure if present paths are suitable. Further discussions planned.

Membership Leaflet – nearly ready for printing, some final discussion about the front page and the Donations website information needs to be added.

James Mackay Memorial – The Mackay Family are in favour of a plaque at the Bennachie Centre and plans to run some events in his memory.

10<sup>th</sup> December Membership/Publicity Event at the Centre was fairly successful and similar events could be planned for Spring, Summer and Autumn, possibly at other locations eg Rowantree, or Back O' Bennachie.

Three Grants have been allocated, which affect the Bailies.

- Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) - Understand Stones, Hear the stories and Relive the past
- Postcode Lottery - Wildlife recording by trainees, cameras and public events
- Creative Histories – Drama on the Hill (JC is on the steering group)

The HLF and Postcode Lottery projects are to be partly funded by the Bailies and Creative Histories is funded by U of A( Education Dept.)

## PLANS

- 10<sup>th</sup> January, meet Sarah Gosden (Ranger Coordinator) to discuss help and support needed from wardens and rangers for the grant projects
- 10<sup>th</sup> January, meet Liz Curtis (U of A Education Dept.) re drama grant
- Contact CS re front of Membership leaflet.
- 18<sup>th</sup> January (Edinburgh) meeting about HLF grant organisation.
- Arrange a meeting with Sheena Lonchay, no date yet.
- Development Officer ... help needed.

## GRANTS UPDATE JC and JM

JC will update the Bailies Board, BCT, BLP, FCS and Aberdeenshire Rangers, monthly, on grant projects.

HLF Grant. JC

Steering Group – Alison Kennedy, Chris Foster, Jo Vergunst (U of A), Member of Inverurie Youth Forum, Jackie C, and members of the Smart History Group.

Summary of Funding.

Bennachie Colony App.

Digital Archive – photos, books etc (link with the Garioch Heritage Society)

Plant fruit bushes in the Kailyard and native trees at Shepherds Lodge.

Colony Play ( part HLF and part Creative Histories ).

First workshop 11<sup>th</sup> February at the Garioch Community Centre, Digital Bennachie – what is needed for the App – content / technology.

12<sup>th</sup> February – Digital landscape.at Bennachie

Other dates 18/19 March, 8/9 April – (archives/ colony walk) and 13/14 May. ( April and May dates at Bennachie Centre)

Press Release and Publicity start 16/17 January and the new logo.

Bailies agree to receive the grant. The money will be put into a main account and BC will set up a spreadsheet to record invoices etc. £10,000 of Bailies money will also be allocated to this account. Volunteers on the steering group (AK CF and JV) will get travel expenses at 45p per mile, every 2 months if required.

JC will provide a list of the work to be carried out by Smart History.

Post Code Lottery (PCL) Grant JM

Grant money to be accepted on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January. Bailies agreed that JM would be the coordinator of this project and as it is a funded post, she cannot remain on the Board of Trustees meantime.

Plans to enlist experts in wildlife are in hand, plant and mammal people, are arranged but a bird expert is still to be confirmed.

10 – 15 volunteers will be needed, to be trained in wildlife identification and camera use, for two main times, Spring and Autumn.

JC, HS and DT agreed to be a core group that JM can coordinate with, when necessary

AOB

JC would like specific email addresses to be set up for certain Board Members /Groups eg Chair, treasurer or wildlife group, MG has a contact that may be able to help DT with this.

MG also suggested "CP &Co", may be able to help with producing a banner and car stickers etc with the new Bailies logo.

Accommodation for people travelling to this area for projects etc, a rate of £25 per night for B&B, was agreed to be paid by the Bailies, to any Board Member willing to provide this service. (AB, JM and AW possibly)

BCT representative. JM agreed to continue to be the Bailies rep, as an observer, at the BCT meetings meantime.

At this point Margaret Garden was asked to leave the meeting.

JC asked the Board if they thought a donation to the funds of the two groups Save Bennachie and WAPA was appropriate. Both groups are working in areas that the Bailies have great interest ie protecting Bennachie from environmental issues. It was agreed to donate £250 to both. BC will contact both groups.

Action Point It was also agreed that JC as Chair, would write a thankyou letter to Myrtle Anderson Smith for her help with moving Bailies Book Collection to the Garioch Heritage Centre and also in due course to Duncan Downie, for his help with the book cases BC asked if there was a copy of the final constitution which was sent to OSCR, he will contact Dawn Brown for a copy.

ACTION POINTS summary

JC to contact Michael Skelly Wild Life Manager, re gralloch.

JC to liaise with Jan and BCT to achieve better communication.

JC to write a letter of thanks to Myrtle Anderson Smith..

BC to contact Dawn Brown re Final Constitution.

Next meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February ( venue to be arranged by AW)

