

BAILIES OF BENNACHIE BOARD MEETING 28/2/17

The meeting was held in the Community Room in 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, Iain Ralston, Rosemary Sievewright (minutes), Helen Summers and Sue Taylor.

Also present, Margaret Garden (Save Bennachie) and Neil Taylor (FCS).

Apologies received from Harry Leil, Jill Mathews, Donna Taylor and Andrew Wainwright.

Matters arising from Minutes

SJW has retained the 2015/2016 files, to complete the report, which must go to OSCR, by the end of April 2017.

HLF Grant. 1st workshop on 11th Feb, was held at Garioch Community Centre not Inverurie Town Hall.

Action Points JC will write to Myrtle after completion of the archive transfer. BC suggested giving her a book token as well.

BC has the most recent Constitution and will check if it's the one on the website.

TREASURERS REPORT BC

The current account which the Bailies have with Clydesdale, is a Club and Society current account. Signatories meantime are JC BC and HL

On 20th January HLF transferred £10,000 and on 24th January PCL transferred £11,840. £40,000 was then transferred to the Barclays Account leaving £50,000.

When the expected grant funds of £20,000 each is spent, the account should have £10,000 left and when in July 2017 the two Term Deposits mature and produce approx. £65,000 the account will remain within the bank liability limit.

The Barclays account has the same signatories as the Clydesdale account and now has approx. £56,000.

The donation of £250 each to "Save Bennachie" and WAPA.

The "Save Bennachie" has gone through successfully but awaiting confirmation from WAPA due to current circumstances.

BT Donate is now ready to accept donations.

The funding for the two projects, PCL and HLF will be controlled by BC using spreadsheets.

Action Point. All invoices should clearly indicate which grant is concerned so that accurate accounts can be kept.

MEMBERSHIP and WEBSITE REPORT 28/2/17 DT

MEMBERSHIP - in the process of removing out of date members.
2 new members since last meeting.

WEBSITE

A copy of the new Constitution needed to put onto the website.

Forum

Comments on Flora and Fauna and video of Pine Marten emailed to the Bailies, put on FB page.

Events

Any upcoming events which need to go on website, please let me know.

Emails

Various queries re wildlife/HLF events, sent to relevant people for replies.

Moderator confirmed his visit on 29th April.

Facebook

889 likes.

885 followers.

Various photos posted to page.

AOB

Logo now on Facebook and Website.

Bailies email addresses now active.

info@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk

chairperson@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk

publications@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk

treasurer@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk

any other queries re work parties/talks can use the info@ and I will forward to relevant people, if that is ok?

Gary and Sandra at Globalweb have changed emails for us and are now setting up a programme so I can mass mail emails (newsletters, events, work party etc). I have told them to invoice us for this work, but not sure if they are going to? They are happy to host our emails for us at no monthly charge, also they will take over the hosting of the Domain name (bailiesofbennachie.co.uk), from our current company at no charge, if the Bailies board are happy for them to do this? (I think we should, as then web and email only through 2 companies not 3 as now) As Gary and Sandra have done this work for us, I suggest offering them free Life Membership of the Bailies as a thankyou.

I contacted Bailies insurers re lottery grants but as these are one-off payments, they agreed not to increase our premium, however advice from BC on our income level means further contact is needed, to ensure we are paying the correct premium.

No time to sort out advert on Walk Highlands site, will look into it soon.

Re dates for “Meet the Bailies” suggest a day over the Easter Weekend as there will be lots of people around. Which day is best? Who can help?

PUBLICATIONS REPORT AB

BC will check the accounts for evidence of retailers having paid for their Calendars directly to the bank. Left over Calendars to go to Garioch Heritage.

2018 Calendar. First meeting of the Calendar Group ? April, any suggestions, photos or themes, welcomed.

PUBLICITY (Leaflets and Talks) ST

The new Membership leaflet is now available. 5,000 printed, distribution points suggested – Bennachie Centre, Garioch Centre, Libraries, Events and Talks. Further discussion needed with the production group, for other requirements eg business cards, car stickers, compliments slip and advertisement banners.

Excess leaflets will be stored by ST meantime.

Two Talks coming up - 1) BP Connections, at Cults, by JV and ST.

2) Danestone Local History, by KL and ST.

BENNACHIE LANDSCAPE PROJECT Update JC

Last meeting was on 14th February. Many members are helping with the production of the Bennachie Colony App.

WORK PARTY

First meeting will be on 4th March and it is planned to plant broadleaf trees at Heather Brig.

BENNACHIE CENTRE TRUST

The next meeting will be 7th March, JM will attend (for continuity) and report back to the Board. The refurbished centre (to be called Bennachie Visitors Centre) will open on the 1st April, and on 21st April a plaque in honour of Algy Watson and James MacKay, will be unveiled.

Action Point for JC. Contact Sheena Lonchay to confirm that she has arranged the unveiling and to enquire, if she has contacted Algy Watson’s family.

CHAIR REPORT JC

It is important to keep a presence at the Bennachie Centre by having Bailie banners. membership leaflets and possibly displays. The Centre will reopen on 1st April and on the 21st April, Mrs Mary MacKay will unveil the commemorative plaque for her husband James MacKay and Algy Watson. Bailies support at this occasion would be appreciated.

Thanks to the efforts of Bailie volunteers and ABs organisation, all the books, bookcases, filing cabinets and display units are now at the Garioch Heritage Centre, where with the help of Myrtle Anderson Smith and Duncan Downie, the collection will be re-established. Final decisions about storage of paper files and publications are

still pending. AB will liaise with Nora. Colin Miller may want the old filing cabinets. Thoughts for the future, live link to Bennachie, projection of wild life footage, a mural. Garioch Heritage Centre has been booked for 8th April for "Smart History" to examine the Archive for digital storage.

GRANTS UPDATE JC and JM

HLF Grant JC

Bennachie App weekend. A good amount of people at both events. Saturday 11th February at the Garioch H C, included members of the Inverurie Youth Forum, where the content of the App was discussed and the technology used to produce it. On Sunday at the Colony, cameras were used to capture the content available. The events were well covered by local press and the P&J and the next planned dates are 18th /19th March at the GHC. Next meeting of the steering group is on Thursday 2nd March.

PCL Grant - JM

Wildlife Training Courses.

Mammals Course , now fully booked. 11 trainees + 1 on a reserve list Programme.

4th 5th March and 9th April in the Monymusk Village Hall with Willow Lohr and Lizzie Bacon - introduction to mammals, tracking and signs

23rd April – Otter day with Lizzie Bacon.

20th May – Badger day with Eric Jensen

June 2 bat evenings with Aileen Salway

August /September/October plans to organise days on squirrel, deer, wildcats and another.

Camera Trapping Course. Ten trainees booked so far, with Rose Toney, Nick Littlewood and Glen Roberts (recording) First date - 30th April at Bennachie Centre.

Birds Course delivered as 24 half days with John Wills, Eight trainees booked Programme starts on 18th March, further dates will then be arranged.

Plants and Vegetation Course, 5 trainees booked so far, with David Bale.

Programme starts on 6th May, further dates will then be arranged

AOB JM would like to redeploy extra expenses to tutors.(board agreed).

At least 12 people will be joining the Bailies using membership forms

Creative Histories

A play is planned for 17th September on Bennachie, The drama group, CS as Bailies rep and Alison Kennedy, were on the hill, on the 28th February.

(ST suggested using 17th September as a "Members Day")

SAVE BENNACHIE Update MG

The Bailies were thanked for the donation to "Save Bennachie" funds, it will be used for publicity materials such as banners. The membership is expanding gradually, now over 700 individual members. Inch has been leafletted door to door and

Kemnay has been half done, the Alliance also continues to increase, with Cairngorm Club and the Cluny, Midmar and Monymusk Community Council both recently joined. It is hoped that the Inverurie Business Association will also join, they are to discuss it at their next meeting and "Save Bennachie" plan to do a presentation at their AGM. Facebook likes – 2,367 and followers – 2,337.

The logo has been seen in New Zealand, Burma, Mandalay and New Deli.

The two year contract, for working up the various routes, is due to be awarded at the beginning of April, so increasing the publicity and updating the preliminary report, are planned to coincide with that time.

BF will send some new archaeological information to the alliance.

Ongoing communication with Transport Scotland and Opportunity North East, are helping to emphasise the economic value of Bennachie.

WAPA Update – Due to present circumstances (route planning has meantime been halted) No update.

FCS Update NT

The upgrade of the Colony trail has been completed, work is ongoing on the Discovery trail and the path to the pond. Dan Cadle has now taken over from Callum Murray as Recreation Forester, his plan for next year is to rebuild the path from the top of Donview to the top of Millstone Hill. The Back O' Bennachie toilets will reopen when the Centre opens. NT will check if leaflets can be displayed outside the Centres

AOB

Future meeting dates, 10th April, 22nd May, 3rd July, 14th August and 26th September will be booked at the Bennachie Centre and 6th November and 18th December will be (hopefully) in the Garioch Heritage Centre.

Recruitment Days need to be planned ST suggested getting a rota of at least 2 volunteers for a short time (1-2 hrs) at each of the 3 centres during school holidays/ public holidays / summer holidays. FCS and Aberdeenshire Council need to be informed of the dates.

Development Officer - no action yet.

Entertainment Licence The last one runs out in early September before the date of the play. Do we need one?

Action Point. JC will check the Council website.

Bailies Map The map on the website now has no scale, do we need further action
Action Point consult AW.

Car Park Stickers Current permit run out in May. NT will need amount needed and other info which he will check.

The remains of a cottage and garden has been discovered from the map, from the Lidar survey in a field near West End

Alison Sutherland would like to do some conservation work.? "Adopt a colony house"
?Hillside garden, keeping broom and other vegetation at bay.

ACTION POINTS SUMMARY

HFL and PCL invoices must be clearly marked.

JC to contact Sheena Lonchay re unveiling of plaque and contact with Algy Watson's relatives

JC to check Aberdeenshire Council Website for information on entertainment licence.

AW do we need further action on the Bailies Map

Next meeting 10th April at the Bennachie Visitor Centre.