

BAILIES OF BENNACHIE BOARD MEETING 22/5/17

The meeting was held at the Bennachie Visitors Centre and was chaired by Jackie Cumberbirch, who welcomed all present to the meeting.

Board members present, Ann Baillie, Brian Cornock (Treasurer), Angela Groat, Harry Leil, Iain Ralston, Rosemary Sievewright (Minutes), Helen Summers, Sue Taylor and Andrew Wainwright.

Also present Linda Bain (Save Bennachie) and Neil Taylor (FCS)

1 APOLOGIES Barry Foster and Donna Taylor.

2 Matters arising from minutes. Minutes accepted

JC unsure when the SCIO documents were to be signed – possibly at next AGM but JC will check with Dawn Brown.

Using new logo on official Emails causing problems

ACTION POINT AG to liaise with Colin Shepherd about setting it up.

ACTION POINT HL two GPS units still cannot be traced meantime.

3 UPDATE from SAVE BENNACHIE Linda Bain.

All candidates for local council elections in Aberdeenshire, were sent a briefing paper about the A96 and Bennachie and members of Save Bennachie attended the hustings at Kemnay and Inverurie and got a supportive response from all parties.

New Banners have been designed and already 2 farmers have agreed to display them after the General Election, for the summer. New standing displays to take to meeting, will soon be ready.

The subject was mentioned on BBC Radio Scotland. A question asked by Stuart Stevenson (MSP Banff and Buchan) on the impact Transport Scotland's planned routes, might have on Bennachie, was answered by Keith Brown (Cabinet Secretary) who assured Mr Stevenson that they were well aware of concerns raised and had a great regard for the environment and the local community. He should be reassured, that these concerns, will be carefully considered and taken into account. Next phase of the design and assessment will start latter in the summer.

Representatives from Save Bennachie attended a meeting of Bennachie Community Council with the aim of persuading them to join the alliance but were unsuccessful due to divided loyalties in the council.

4 UPDATE from FCS Neil Taylor

Some good publicity received about the upgrade of the Discovery Trail.

Tenders are in and being considered, for work on the path on Millstone hill

Could multiple emails be reduced - only communicate at the end of in house discussions eg Creative Histories

JC asked if FCS would prefer to grant individual or multiple permission for the many events happening this year. (NT thinks individual preferred).

JC asked if the tender for Millstone Hill, included work needed on the diversion path as well.

ACTION POINT NT Confirm if tender includes work at the top and bottom of Millstone Hill

5 PROJECT / GRANTS UPDATES JM and JC

PPL Update from JM

Wildlife Training Courses on Bennachie are well under way.

a) The Mammal course started with an introductory course in Monymusk Village Hall, in March, followed by a field day on Deeside and an otter day in April. On 20th May, badgers were the focus of attention and 2 bat evenings are planned for July and August. In September and October plans are being made for days on squirrels, deer and wild cats. Camera traps have been allocated to 11 survey squares attended by 11 volunteers. Care must be taken to ensure people are excluded from any footage collected.

b) *The Bird course also had an introduction in Monymusk Village Hall in March followed by a field visit and a walk through the woods from Bennachie Centre in April. On 21st May there was a walk from*

Rowantree Car Park which will be repeated on 24th May

c) *Plants and Vegetation Course had an introduction to identifying plant on 6th May followed by an introduction to vegetation survey on 20th May.*

HLF Heritage, History and Archaeology. Update from JC

a) *Bennachie*

Colony App. Good drone footage of Mither Tap, Shepherd's Lodge, Esson's, Hillside and Burnside and collecting information on 9 "hot spots". A meeting on the 9th May with Smart Histories included tutorials on Facebook and Twitter

Various films and interviews about Bennachie can be seen on

Utube - interesting archive material

Inverurie Youth Forum development of a game for the App.

Colony Walk on 20th

May. 7 people attended including a student doing research on the graffiti on Mither Tap.

Steering Group meeting on 31st May to discuss information for Esson's 'hot spot'. June is the month for all the info, on the various 'hot spots' to be placed on Google Drive. Meeting with Smart History on 21st June to look at App demo, and on 4th July, to review all App points with summary, which will then be sent to Smart History.

b) *Bennachie Archive was discussed on 13th May and a further meeting on 16th June, this will hopefully include the means for storing digitally all the Bailies files as well.*

c) *Kailyard Chris Foster leading research -no archaeological evidence of a path but lots of pottery shards. On 23rd June Oyne School to visiting the site.*

d) *Native Tree planting Carol*

Robertson (Native Woodland Advisor) has been appointed to plan and design a foraging native woodland in the fields below Shepherd's Lodge. In May/June and July, prepare a basic design for the woodland and consult with the Bailies and other interested parties. Plans and designs to be finalised by the end of August and the trees ordered. Trees to be planted in November.

e)

Creative Histories a meeting was held in Aberdeen. No one from the Bailies attended, (Clash of dates) Further event will be held in Inverurie town Hall on 11th June.

6 PUBLICATIONS and PLANNING UPDATES AB

HL, DT and AB met to finalise selection of photographs of James MacKay and Geoff Gill, approved by the widows, to be included in the 2018 Calendar, along with a little article on each by AB.

Many good seasonal photos were received this year, including one for the front cover, of Bennachie from Daviot, by Paul Cameron.

The new charity number and the

Mission Statement, is needed for inclusion in the calendar.

1500 copies ordered, which

should be ready by the end of June

The Bennachie Visitors Centre want 3 copies of

the series of BLP books. ACTION POINT AB Contact Waterstones Book Shop in Aberdeen, to see if they want to stock a few of the books.

7 PUBLICITY ST

All Bailies leaflets/publicity material now have new logo and charities number. A discussion was held about badges, it was agreed that 50 name badges would be ordered and possibly, at a later date, a badge for all members to purchase, if they wish.

The last 'Meet the Bailies' event did not result in new members, the next one is planned for 29th May between 1200 and 1400 hrs at the Centre then perhaps at Rowantree.

It is now time to prepare articles for the Annual Report, a reminder email will be sent to all contributors. Material should be in by the end of June.

8 TREASURERS REPORT BC (Full report attached).

The official deadline for submission to OSCR, of accounts for 2015/16, has passed because of difficulties of categorising some income. This has now been agreed and the accounts can be signed off and sent along with a copy of the last Annual Report. The next Annual Report for 2016 /17 will contain a more comprehensive Treasurers Report for sending to OSCR next May.

Included with this report are attachments detailing a full financial report, a Clydesdale bank current account statement for May and details of the PPL and HLF grant accounts.

9 ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL UPDATE JC

Bennachie is to feature in part of the Visit Scotland Tourist Stand, at the Highland Show this year.

Bennachie Visitors Centre Trust has had banners and leaflets made. All the display

boards at the centre are now booked up. JM has booked September for the Bailies/PPL funded Wildlife Project.

ACTION POINT JC to produce a display specifically for the Bailies.

The next BOG (Bennachie Organisation Group) meeting will be on 9th June

10 CHAIR REPORT JC

Thanks to DT and ST for their work at the 'Meet the Bailies' publicity day on 16th April, lots of leaflets were handed out but no one interested in buying books. Next one is on 29th May, volunteers required.

The Moderator of the Church of Scotland Rt Rev Dr Russell Barr, came to Bennachie as part of his visit to the Presbytery of Gordon, and sent a nice thank you note, to all who helped make the day enjoyable. (Sheena, Ann and Jackie)

ACTION POINT JC Check if Dr Barr got the books.

Better contact still needed with the Pittodrie Estate for various reasons. JM is currently trying There is a possibility they plan to fell an area and various Bailie events are taking place on their property.

ACTION POINT JC will make time to contact estate manager if all else fails.

BLP are continuing to survey some round houses and long houses.

Toilets at the Rowantree car park are in danger of closure, due to lack of council funding, the Bailies are asking for community volunteers, to take on the cleaning, to keep them open. Management of heathland (a priority habitat) Aberdeenshire Council, the Bailies and FCS and also the Forbes Estate and the Pittodrie Estate need to plan how to make the best of it. The work parties may also be involved eg in removing exotics plants/ trees. Eg lodge pole pine and sitka spruce

11 WORK PARTY UPDATE HL

Last work party on 6th May had 10 volunteers and cleared the path from Shepherds Lodge to Westend and Burnside, next plan is to work on Millstone Hill. JC noted some of the water bars on the Rowantree path need to be cleared.

12 MEMBERSHIP and WEBSITE UPDATE DT

Membership still being updated

1st Jan 2017

8 removed (letters returned address unknown)

22 new members since

3 members deceased.

Website

Forum.

send information on any new events for Website and Facebook.
forwarded to those concerned.

Events. Please

E-mail. Various e-mails

Facebook 976 likes

AOB

PO box renewed at a cost of £318.

someone who had a part of a reaper sold at the last crofter sale in 1930s, do the Bailies want it on loan? HL will find out about it.

FCS Conservancy are celebrating

the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology and plan to take the BLP banners to play a part in their display at Turriff Show in August

ACTION POINT JC to get the banners

BC asked about access to the Garioch Heritage Centre for adding to Bailies Files. AB said get in touch with Nora Radcliffe or Roy Sands as a courtesy and the keys are in the office.

SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

AG to liaise with Colin Shepherd about setting up the new logo on official emails.

HL two GPS units still missing.

NT to confirm if the

tender for work on Millstone Hill includes the diversion path as well. AB to contact Waterstones Book shop in Aberdeen to see if they want a few BLP books. JC to prepare a display for the Centre specifically on the Bailies.

JC to check if the Moderator was given the present of books.

JC to contact Pittodrie Estate if JM unsuccessful.

JC to get BLP

banners for Turriff Show.

Next meeting 3rd July.