

BAILIES OF BENNACHIE BOARD MEETING 3/7/17

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), Barry Foster, Angela Groat, Harry Leil, Iain Ralston, Rosemary Sievewright (Minutes), Donna Taylor, Sue Taylor and Andrew Wainwright.

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

1. APOLOGIES. Helen Summers.

2. Matters arising from the minutes. Minutes accepted

Logo on official emails now OK. Two GPS units still untraceable. The tendered work to be carried out on Millstone Hill, will only be at the top, the diversion path at the bottom, will be looked at later. Blackwell's book shop has agreed to take a few BLP books. Other city sources still to be tried.

ACTION POINT (continued) JC to prepare a display for the Centre, specifically for the Bailies and to check if the Moderator was given the BLP books.

The person to contact for liaising with Pittodrie Estate is Finlay Morrison

3. PUBLICATIONS and PLANNING AB

The 2018 Calendar is now available. It has dedications to two VIP Bailies, who died within the last year. Founder member James R. MacKay MBE and Dr Geoff M Gill MBE, Clerk to the Bailies for many years and latterly involved with Garioch Heritage Centre.

New retail outlets are needed. JC will do a press release and DT will send an email to the Membership and put it on Facebook, to encourage sales.

No further planning request relevant to Bennachie.

4. MEMBERSHIP and COMMUNICATIONS DT

2292 current members, after non responding children, from family memberships, have been removed.

5 new members since January.

Information, on future events, needed for the website.

New Email address, for the public to contact the Bailies, is now ready and active - info@bailiesofbennachie.co.uk

Facebook has 1005 likes and 995 followers, a prize of a guide, will go to the 1000th follower.

ACTION POINT for JC. Update the Bailies website about the projects.

5. MARKETING and ARCHIVES ST

a) Marketing. New marketing material is now available, 2 flag banners, ordinary banner but not, as yet, a pull up banner. Membership forms, compliments slips, business cards, note paper, car stickers and name badges. Paper stock can be kept at GHC but the banners in the tool shed, with a log of use, to be kept by users.

Colin Shepherd's help was very much appreciated with this project.

b) Archives. Colin Miller prepared an update on the story so far, of the Digital Archive, being prepared by the Smart History Group, in conjunction with the BLP and the Bailies. It will have two components a data storage part and a website. The Digital Archive Subgroup (DAS) is

currently Colin Millar, Jo Vergunst, Chris Foster and Alison Kennedy. Sue Taylor, Andrew Wainwright and Angela Groat, will also be included, in what will become the Data Management Group (DMG) (When data inputting starts, extra people will need to be co-opted to help.) We will then need a Data Protection Policy, a Data Input Policy and photographic permission forms. Smart History may have examples of this material. We will also need a domain name for the new website, which will be separate from, but linked to, the Bailies Website. Suggestions requested.

There will be a meeting with Smart History on 10th July, at which time a test run of data input, will be done. This will be evaluated and further developed, aiming at a launch online in late August

6. TREASURERS REPORT BC

The 2015-2016 accounts, were sent to OSCR in May and have been accepted.

SCIO progress Discussion with OSCR SCIO case officer, Neil Edwards, clarified the best way forward, to dissolve the old charity and fully activate the SCIO. A set of forms need to be filed, 42 days before chosen date of dissolution (? 31st Dec. 2017). The SCIO, which has been running, but inactive, since 13th March 2017, would then become fully active on 1st Jan. 2018, and the Bailies financial year would then run from 1st Jan. to 31st Dec.

David Minett, the Bailies independent examiner, has confirmed, that this approach, would be acceptable, if the Trustees approve. These changes, could be conveyed to the Membership, at the next AGM and confirmed, hopefully, by a 2/3rds majority, not 50% (correction to new constitution needed)

Allowing this financial year to run till 31st December, will also mean, financial loose ends, from the projects, can be tidied up.

Clydesdale current account statement, has been sent to all trustees.

Clydesdale Term Deposits, have been renewed, the 1year deposit at 0.9% interest and the 2 year deposit at 1.15% interest.

Barclays account bears no interest and perhaps should be closed and the substantial funds transferred, to an interest bearing account with RBS or BOS.

HLF. An updated tracker spreadsheet, has been sent to all trustees. Only 4% of the planned expenditure, has been used, so far. Smart History Bill awaited.

PPL. An updated tracker spreadsheet, has been sent to all trustees. 34% of planned expenditure, has been used. Bird and Plant expenses awaited

ACTION POINT for BC Double check that the banks, will accept the change of charity number, when we transfer to the SCIO.

7. SAVE BENNACHIE. MG

Transport Scotland have awarded the design tender, to AMEY ARUP Joint Venture. This is a £50 million and 20 year contract, to choose the route in the 1st 2 years and supervise the building of the road, in the next 18. They will have a "meet the team" consultation meeting locally, towards the end of summer, to which all interested should go. Location, date and time will be advertised on Facebook.

Aberdeenshire Environmental Forum, have joined the alliance. Individual membership is currently 790 - 800 and Facebook followers 2,480.

Publicity. The Alliance have purchased 6 banners (and have requests for more), 2 pop-up display boards, car stickers and more fliers have been ordered.

On advice from a media consultant the "One Year On" report, which was prepared before the General Election but delayed, should now be published.

The Alliance has been in touch with the new MP, Colin Clark, who was supportive of "Save Bennachie" when he was a local councillor and will hopefully be so, in his new position.

A meeting has been arranged, with Infrastructure Services of Aberdeenshire Council.

Now that the design tender has been announced, momentum can be built up again.

8. FCS NT

The path work on Millstone Hill has been delayed, because of contractor unavailability and is now due to start on 20th July. Dan would like to thank the Bailies work party, for the work done on Oxencraig, over the last month. There has been some "wind blow" recently, that is being tidied up.

Around 60 pupils from Ellon Academy, visited the Centre, over the last month, on days out. There are some small/medium sized events planned. On 20th July, the Mither Tap Hill race will take place -around 75 people expected. On 26th July, about 30 people, from Grampian Orienteering are expected.

JC asked if there were any First Aid courses planned, in the near future, Bailies need help to update their Certificates.

Erosion noted on the Gordon Way. Paths near the English Quarry and from the Centre, show wear and tear, probably made worse by mountain bikes and the "all abilities trail" has damaged areas. NT will pass info. on to Dan.

ACTION POINT for NT Find out when the sleeper is being moved into place, for the work parties. Report to HL or MT please.

9. WORK PARTIES

An informal path has been cleared, at Shepherd's Lodge, which will be useful, when tree planting is going to be done.

10. CHAIR and PROJECTS REPORTS JC

Rowntree Toilets. The Bailies want to prevent, the Aberdeenshire Community Council (ACC) from closing these toilets, by liaise with the Bennachie Community Council (BCC), ACC and volunteer cleaners, to keep them open. If the Bailies can find volunteers, to clean them every 2nd day. BCC will provide insurance, consumables, be the first point of contact for problems and inspect the toilets. ACC will still own and be responsible for, the buildings.

On 20th May, JC met with Greg Manning (BCC) and Andrew Mechan (ACC), Sarah Robertson, Chair of BCC, was unable to attend. She wants all concerned, to sign a contract, re their apparent responsibilities.

ACC wanted to close the toilets at the end of June but has agreed, to carry on till the end of July, at which point BCC and volunteers, will take over, on a two month trial. JC has got 4 volunteers so far and will arrange for their training.

31st May. HLF Steering group for the App, met and put together information for Esson's Hot Spot, for Smart History (SH).

11th June. Creative Histories people, met at Bennachie Centre, for background info. for the play. They are concerned, by the lack of Bailies, in the project. Volunteers will be needed, on 10th September, between 1pm and 4pm, for the play (site organisation -not acting) AB and AW volunteered. Another meeting with Liz Curtis, Grace Banks CS and JC to be held on 5th

July, to clarify further needs.

12th June. BLP Meeting to discuss further information, needed for the Kailyard App and the Archives.

14th June. BCT AGM. Sheena Lonchay still Chair. JM will continue to be Bailies rep, at their meetings. Items for discussion, sustainability of the building and possibility of having WiF

16th June. Meeting on the archive. See ST report (5 Marketing and Archives)

21st June. Smart History demo on App "Hot Spots" at the Garioch Community Centre. They now have a digital reconstruction, of the Colony houses and some drone footage. On 4th

July, there will be a meeting of the steering group, to discuss further work, on the "Hot Spots"

23rd June. CF and AS, with the help of pupils from Oyne, were soil testing, at the Kailyard.

1st July. Work party made an informal path, at Shepherd's Lodge.

JC had a meeting with Nora Radcliff (Garioch Heritage), to discuss the Bailies use of the Centre.

a) The Bailies books are now stored there and a loan agreement, needs to be set up.

b) The Bailies computer is housed there and access is needed to it, regularly.

c) The Bailies AGM, is planned to be there in September, including a tour and refreshments.

d) The winter Board meetings, are planned to be there.

The hire cost to the Bailies, is to be £20 per meeting but perhaps a donation to their funds, which would cover all our costs, plus more, as a good will gesture, would be appropriate.

Trustees are in favour of that suggestion. AB will confirm the date of the AGM, then check dates, of winter board meetings.

Update on Wildlife Training Courses (PPL Grant) JM

Mammal Courses for July, August and September.

22nd July. Bat evening with Aileen Solway.

3rd August. Squirrels with Matt Nutall.

12th August. Bat evening with Aileen Solway.

16th September Wild cats with Emma Rawlins.

Tutor and date for Deer TBA.

Camera Traps. 15 cameras, have been distributed, two have not yet sent footage. JM will check on them. The best images from the cameras, have been posted on Facebook but others are available, if needed, as the camera holders, are uploading their images, to a dropbox. Bat detectors, are to be ordered, at the weekend.

Bird Events

22nd June. Event cancelled due to low attendance. Some events cannot be planned in advance, because of bad weather, so people cannot always attend, at short notice. People on the reserve list, have now been contacted.

July event TBA.

Plants and Vegetation.

12th and 19th August TBA.

Weather writers and hand lenses, will be ordered.

On occasions, there are spaces in events, which could be filled by board members, if they are interested. On the Glorious 12th a vegetation day and a bat evening are planned and possibly something on grouse and moorland ways, but the Centre is booked and an alternative venue, would be needed. Do the trustees have views on this idea?

11) AOB

The Dropbox, for footage from camera traps, will cost £10 per month, for two terabytes of space, a smaller cost, for one terabyte, is available but size may not be adequate. Cost will be met from PPL funds.

Can research from these projects, be kept by the Bailies, as well as sent to NESBrEC.

Druminnor excavation work, will take place every fortnight, a digger will be brought in next weekend, to help clear a large section.

A survey by AW, of the small quarry near Shepherd's Lodge, has been carried out and an estimation of 4000 lintels, could have been quarried from it.

The Garioch Partnership, AGM to which a Bailies Rep. was invited, HS attended. They announced, that they are hoping to move to new premises.

NEMT membership is now due, £25. Trustees confirmed continued interest.

JC still plans to step down from the Chair, in September. (A later email said that she would stay in place, till the next AGM, in March 2018, by which time, all the projects, should be completed)

Summary of Action Points

JC Prepare a display for the Centre, specifically for the Bailies.

JC Check if the Moderator got the BLP books.

JC Update the website, as well as Facebook, with Project information.

BC Double check, that the banks will accept, the new charity number, when we become a SCIO.

NT When is the sleeper being put in place, for the work parties?

Next Meeting Date 14th August