

Minutes of the meeting of Trustees of Bailies of Bennachie in person on the 9th April, 2024.

In Attendance, Trustees: Lorna Bell (LB), David Caney (DC), Alan Henderson (AH), Willie Linklater (WL), Peter Stock (PS), Allan Will (AW).

In Attendance, non-Trustee: Karen Noble

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RESP/ ACTIONER
1 Apologies	Apologies were received from David Bale (DB), Alex Doig (AD)	
2. Minutes	The minutes of 27 th February were accepted and approved.	
	Matters Arising	
	<p>Treasurers Report</p> <p>The year got off to a good start with donation from Little Brown Dog Gin. Defib costs added. Expenditure will go up with purchase and training for power tools.</p> <p>Investments are up 3%. The sum of £120,000 was moved to Rathbones for better interest rate.</p>	
	Bid for time	
Agenda Items		
	<p>Appointment of office bearers</p> <p>Chair - PS Proposed by AH seconded by WL ,</p> <p>Treasurer - AH proposed by PS, seconded by DC,</p> <p>Deputy Chair - AW proposed by WL, seconded LB,</p> <p>Secretary - WL proposed PS seconded by AW. WL wanted it noted that this would be his last year as secretary.</p>	
	<p>Maintaining the Gordon Way</p> <p>LB attended BVC meeting as representative of Bailies of Bennachie.</p> <p>The Gordon Way as discussed, FLS will keep path safe from H&S point, such as cutting down overhanging branches. There is concern it is being lost and will be lost without maintenance. Abz Council are supportive of paths networks. Alison and ramblers group did work pre-Covid. FLS have cleared some windblow. Unknown condition some areas of the land such as on Forbes Estate? Suggestion from DC that the windfarm company</p>	

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	<p>might have money to put that way for Suie end of GW and maybe Bennachie. WL would never want the Bailies to take this on themselves due to length of path and sections being off Bennachie. Some work was done on the drains near the English Quarry , with plans to do more. Could other community groups join in, which might they be?</p> <p>Is it little used in that the infrastructure is not there, is it not used because it is inaccessible? DC, PS, AH will walk it and carry out a survey of what is required? The bit after the turn off to Oxen Craig is unknown.</p> <p>Feedback the survey results to BVC staff.</p>	<p>DC, PS, AH LB</p>
	<p>Timeline Trail path upgrade project</p> <p>Two subgroup meetings have taken place plus one with FLS. FLS think community groups can get grants to do paths. If we get grants or our own money FLS would project manage. We agreed to progress the path with a proposal to FLS. Terms of engagement required with FLS. We'd need to be cautious of issues that might be raised. Hands may be tied with the stated contractor in place. The contractor is for FLS in general, not this path in particular. FLS will only do work on a path where it is unsafe.</p> <p>Timeline Trail chosen because it is so well used. May eventually continue up to Mither Tap.</p> <p>AW Concern raised over exposed roots being a slip issue.</p> <p>AH Concern over the time it may take with FLS.</p> <p>PS stated FLS are going to be regrading / reclassifying paths.</p> <p>AW brought up the point of the legacy gift, what are we doing with it. A project such as this would demonstrate to members we are investing the money into the hill.</p> <p>Should this project continue to go ahead. We accept there are various aspects to be explored and concluded along the way prior to final agreement to commit resources to this project. Trustees were in agreement it should</p>	<p>WL?</p> <p>???</p>
	<p>Migration of emails to Microsoft</p> <p>Meeting was held to discuss this and our other IT systems with Jim Buchan. WL has reservations about us doing it ourselves and thinks an IT company should do this. The key reason for this is the significant work admin already have to cover. WL suggested Global Web migrate us to Microsoft. Meeting to be had with GWL with PS, WL & admin</p>	<p>WL, PS, SG,KN</p>

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	<p>Woodland management proposal. Pollen analysis results directing the potential trees to be planted in line with what used to be in that area. RTS are very keen to do this and planting will be done, by RTS, by hand. LB said bareroot trees be planted with an 'R' in the month, April then September, October etc. Volunteer group required. Develop involvement from our own groups and new volunteers. Will require to look after trees from planting onwards and introduce skills such as coppicing etc. Materials from the trees could be used by local crafts people Get Colin Shepherd, DB , LB and AW together to see what could be done.</p>	AW, LB, DB
	<p>Indicator Anniversary & Picnic Yes, go ahead to gather the folks from the photos. Do this initially to see how the Facebook uptake is to re-enact the photo for the indicator. Report back to Trustees with findings.</p>	KN
	<p>Toilets at Rowantree. They were opened on 2nd April. WooWoo toilets, Stella absent to bring to the table (deferred)</p>	SG
	<p>Trustee complement AH thinks his contact is still interested but doesn't want to push him on it. He would be welcome to the next meeting in May should he wish. Peter's contact needs chasing up</p>	AH PS
	<p>Willie - looking at Admin list and paths, do we require someone to manage? AH mentioned with FLS managing the paths work there is little work for the Bailies, would be done by trustees in sub group AW concern over WL stepping down as secretary next year. AH stated it's the same for all office bearer roles. Just to be kept in mind re succession planning Different skill sets required, not always on the hill more admin too.</p>	
	<p>From BVC meeting Clarify the information boxes, what is the box? Laminated info sheet held securely under a window, there will be no leaflets etc. for visitors to take away. BVC had concern over potential littering. There are to be 10. May use the 9 Colony posts, to get this started. LB to feedback to BVC Discussed could BLPG word info for Colony? AW to discuss with them</p>	LB AW
	<p>Note from WL to admin New colony leaflet to be added to website as new posts should be installed this Saturday – it's on To Do</p>	WL / KN

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	Car park applications These to go to Stella. AW to send his BLPG info to SG. Assumed SG collating this?	PS / AW / SG
	Free drop-in defib training Westhill, 18 th May, Lorna has poster AW to ask who from BLPG wants to go and PS to pass onto Hugh	AW / PS
	Dig info to go on Facebook. AW to advise when and what to post. Posters to go to BVC, library, GHC, community spaces etc.	AW
	Meeting with Veronica - RTS AW to have meeting with Veronica, PS agreed to attend and WL if available	AW / PS / WL
	Meeting Closed 21.00 Next meeting 21 st May 2024	

Signed – Chair – Peter Stock
Date: 21st May, 2024



Signed – Secretary – Willie Linklater
Date: 21st May, 2024

