

Minutes of the meeting of Trustees of Bailies of Bennachie held online via Teams on the 16th January 2024.

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

In Attendance, non-Trustee: Stella Gauld

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RESP/ ACTIONER
1 Apologies	Apologies were received from David Bale (DB)	
2. Minutes	The minutes of 5 th December were accepted and approved.	
	Matters Arising The Action Tracker will be populated and brought into the Pre-Reads. WL requested that everyone read and update between meetings.	WL/All
	David Caney – David introduced himself as a former geologist, now a mental health nurse who will retire 27 th Feb from NHS. He is looking forward to being a Trustee. Commended Hugh Fraser attention to detail and safety on Work Party.	
3. Finance	<p>Treasurer’s Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summarise where we are for 2023; £70k+ of income, £80k of costs. That’s the true picture but £14k is 50th anniversary costs and £14k of investment mgt cost. • Net gain of £66k in investments. Total surplus is £60k YTD. • Deposit a/cs is restricted access for 2 years, current account is paying 5%, that will drop to 2% at end Feb. £220k in current account and some can be moved longer term. • WL commented that we did not spend all budgeted elements; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ environmental plan was not defined in time, ○ fun and learning wasn’t spent due to lack of resources, ○ 50th overspent budgeted value ○ Investment mgt costs not budgeted. <p>These should be explained more fully in a spreadsheet note. AH said that we will add commentary on budget vs spend.</p> <p>Annual Accounts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial statements, now on Teams in PDF • Quick history on the legacy for DC benefit. No audit this year, but just externally examined. • AH showed online the Financial Statements and clarified items • Trustees had previously been asked to review the accounts. These were approved at the meeting of 16th January. Asked for 	AH

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RESP/ ACTIONER
	supplementary confirmation by showing agreement on Teams post <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rathbones meeting planned for same meeting as Trustee meeting on 27th Feb, propose another date? Decide offline 	ALL
	Complement of Trustees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jim Herbert has chosen to resign due to various family concerns, and his resignation was accepted as 8th January, 2024. David Caney joined as Trustee at the 4th January and is very welcome. Go back with 42 to re-energise the campaign. Any trustees wishing to input to contact PS Ask the Trustees to put a wee video together of what being a Trustee has brought to them. AW happy to do this, short and succinct. 	PS AW
	Annual Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reminder to get all the reports not already in by end Jan Include Fun & Learning, AD to contact MG Report on the 50th is also requested (PMN – Done) Report on the Nature Scotland award (PMN – Done) Kailyard report from Jo Vergunst, plus Pittodrie dig & BLPG Wildlife report is also ready. Only printed 140 last year but some left, so agreed to get 100 to allow for 50 to post and hand deliver to those at AGM. 	AD AW LB AD
	Garioch Heritage Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WL and PS had a meeting with GHC. GHC have sent an email proposal Offer of 20 meetings, plus storage of library, at £3k. They did not want to offer a showcase upstairs, unless it was part of Bennachie and history and not just the Bailies. WL advised GHC person responsible were previously interested in the Bennachie History showcase AW asked if BLPG had a conference, could it be used at minimal rent. AH asked for annual invoice. Agreed to go ahead with GHC, WL/PS to draft agreement. Catering is sometimes additional to £3k. Cover in the agreement 	PS/WL

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RESP/ ACTIONER
	<p>FLS Meeting in January</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree with FLS what BoB need to cover on paths. Are FLS going to work on the colony trail area. • Review the Environmental Parts (PS/WL to get info from DB offline) • Request the Power tools permission • Waymarkers are deteriorating, check with FLS on permissions. The actual ownership of the waymarkers to discuss offline. • Info on siting waterbutts, streams, reference the Fire Service • Master map (in guide of Bennachie) can be marked up by AD for use by Fire Service 	PS/WL
	<p>Volunteer Day at GHC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WL clarified lunch on 27th, chat and information on 2024 Work Party and BLPG plans. • Open to the WP and BLPG groups. • All trustees are encouraged to attend and mingle if possible 	<p>WL</p> <p>All</p>
	<p>Broadleaf Tree Planting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting clearfell area above Bede House by hand as machinery not accessible • Around the Bede house area and garden will be broadleaves • Schools could be involved, via the Treescape project at Alford Academy & Jo Vergunst • Should we get BoB involved, and Hugh involved? (PMN: Bailies involvement is not required) • Concession on age limit on trees, and need to know where the trees are sourced from. (PMN: no longer applicable) • AW to get more information • RTS are the main focus. • Second part of this is via RTS (Veronica) to have a community managed woodland. Maintaining trees and area around, developing old skills such as coppicing, use materials from the trees, early stages within BLPG, but is BoB onboard. • WL was suggesting we get more info, but seemed to be aligned with the Colony Management Plan and BoB aims. • Involving the Environmental Team and Wildlife Teams would really work. 	AW
	<p>First Aid Course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two First Aid sessions on 10th and 17th February, which are open to the Trustees. Sign up to either contacting Hugh Fraser. 	All
	<p>Communications to the Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiona Cormack formerly did newsletters, but think we should do this quarterly to members, what we have done by reports and what we are planning. 	

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RESP/ ACTIONER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG mentioned that we have 5.2k followers on FaceBook. • WL added that the local villages also have newsletters, ensure the list is created (KN) for all local publications and copy dates. Add to To Do list. Inch and Kemnay (Feb) newsletter been put in this year. • AD will volunteer to put the comms plan together. Will contact FC to also ask • FB communications plan to get the volunteers for digs, work parties, wildlife etc, all to add info to it. Teams, General, Publications, FB • FB gets more acknowledgement than members; this needs to be redressed. 	<p>KN AD</p>
	<p>Hill of Fare Wind Turbines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd Feb is deadline date for comment. • DB still off, but he suggested that conflict with policy is the right form of response • AH suggested that we should object. Spoil the view from Bennachie significantly. The size is much bigger than existing turbines. • DC will contact friend at Hill of Fare for more local info. • What does the Voice for the Hill say on this? • Existing turbines, visible from Foudland, is this worse? • We can only oppose on sight impact from Bennachie, but agreement from Trustees present is to abstain. Acknowledge DB may have stronger view. 	<p>DC</p>
	<p>Radio invitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested from a member that we should invite Clare Balding and explore Bennachie. Should Admin extend the invite out? Walk with the individuals who have a background story to tell. Recreate the walk with Colin Miller and David Bale? 30 minute programme. Put an appealing package together and make the initial contact. 	<p>WL/SG/KN</p>
	<p>Communications/Writing Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chap looking for PR work, potentially compose articles. Contact PS if we see a role. 	

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RESP/ ACTIONER
	<p>Frankie Hay Memorial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youngster died on the hill and there is a gravesite marked on the hill. Location of final resting place unknown. AD has knowledge of the family. SG to write up report for archive. AW to check with Alison Kennedy. Jackie Cumberbirch previously involved (PMN: no requirement to contact Alison and Jackie. WL sent out email 17-01-2023 with grave location and various photos of the site including gravestone and wooden cross). • A relative has been in touch via info, require to check if same or different relatives AD has contact with • Desire to collect background info and decide if we should help 	<p>SG/AD SG/AD</p>
	<p>Social Event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Casual event, Pittodrie House, Fennels, trustee's house? Discuss via Teams. Yes, mid Feb 	<p>PS</p>
	<p>Meeting Closed 20:56</p>	

Signed – Chair – Peter Stock
Date 24 Feb 2024



Signed – Secretary – Willie Linklater
Date 24 Feb 2024

