

Minutes of the meeting of Trustees of Bailies of Bennachie in person on the 21st May, 2024

In Attendance, Trustees: David Bale (DB), Lorna Bell (LB), Alex Doig (AD), 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 Caney (DC), Alan Henderson (AH)	
2. Minutes	The minutes of 9 th April were accepted and approved.	
3. Actions Outstandi ng	WL had closed out a few actions as completed. DB commented that the closing date of 31 st May for planning comments for Hill of Fare, but in general felt that worth objecting on strength of visualisation as visible from Bennachie. These turbines are 175m and larger than any others in the area. DB to write up a brief on this, send to SG for headed paper.	DB
4.	<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <p>Power Tools and Admin are both overspent.</p> <p>Cost of tools training up over by c50% and total project is now £7.5k. The BLPG group are very appreciative of their inclusion in the training and the work of the Bailies Work Parties.</p> <p>Get the training for the tools and also how the work parties use this, with a Dos and Don'ts Policy set up. PJS to request a document from Hugh to ensure that this is available. AD requested info on whether we have a bleed/tourniquet kit in our first aid course.</p> <p>Admin is overspent and is a result of work being taken on by Admin from ex Trustees.</p> <p>WL suggested that potential overspends should be reported ahead of time, prior to spending.</p>	PJS
5	<p>Use of Teams</p> <p>Request to use this exclusively for all internal communications instead of emails. Need to note any comments on posts. AW said that hidden channels don't notify of changes, you need to look in too. DB said that posts are difficult to find again. LB is not very familiar with Teams and relies on the emails to flag up posts. Can use search field to find any relevant article. Trying to recall which post or chat something was in is difficult. WL agreed that sometimes older conversations are difficult to track. Forgot sometimes to use the <i>@Trustees general</i> to ensure notification. What do we need to do to ensure the conversations are flagged? General chat is difficult, use posts. Ask AD for any guidance if needed. Emails should be used for external; Teams are internal. Emails</p>	

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	can be pdf'd and added to the relevant channel to ensure good record keeping.	
6	<p>BLPG, / BLG & Drumminor: Bailies backed BLP in 2011 and been running ever since, ancient seat of Lord Forbes. Dig coming to close & Colin Shepherd reached out to AW as project will be written up and completed, asked if Bailies would want to be named as associated with the final report. Approval for Bailies to be named. It will complement the Open Access Publication. WL reported that there was a lot of harmony from the BLPG meeting last night and a lot closer relationship. AW will feed back approval to BLPG</p> <p>Website: Any archive of the old material, and for detailed information on BLPG projects people are redirected out of the BoB site into Colin Shepherd's site. AW is requesting that we provide administration support of this site , which could be lost if something happened to CS. Admin team liaison may be required to review and look after this. CS' website has a lot more specific archaeological specific information.</p> <p>Perhaps look at inclusion similar to Fun & Learning. SG and KN to speak to CS to see what is involved. WL agreed open the conversation. Also be aware of Admin overload.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AW</p> <p style="text-align: center;">WL/SG/KN</p>

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	RESP/ ACTIONER
7.	<p>RTS Meeting: DB, DC, AW met with Veronica of RTS. Long House will not be cleared in time for the digs. It will be cleared in the summer, will not impact the digs. Bailies will excavate this site next year. 2.5 – 3 acre site will be felled and replanted as woodland, broadleaf planting for the Community Woodland project. Joining up the Turnpike, Bede House, etc. areas. Touched on methods of taking windblow off the hill, across the Rushmill. Restore some of the pathways that heavy machinery uses. Topple up tree plugs to maintain appearance. Offer to meet DB to discuss flora and fauna, which happened. Fire plan, and AW has already visited fire station to hand over this plan. Visited Macauley quarry, discussed BioBlitz and cameras. Great relationship being built.</p> <p>DB strategic plan; floated some of the objectives, woodland links increases biodiversity, harvesting, using best practice. Making forests more resilient to storms, small coups to manage. Veronica keen to learn more about the area, sent documents about less intensive systems.</p> <p>Touched on Fog House, visible from Turnpike once trees around are felled, aware of safety issues with public accessing site. Survey to be undertaken once trees gone, they will offer up to £5k to get building back in order.</p>	
8.	<p>Rotary Head Cutter: multi-tool training was included with training but rotary head training was with a one piece design. Agreed to not use snap on rotary head cutter after 50/50 vote and discussion on how governance sits with this and risk of using it. Look to sell back and purchase a one piece that operators are trained on. Costs £500. Ensure Hugh has the training supplied to have all operators full trained on all our tools and only use those already trained on.</p>	PS
9	<p>Cameras: Trail cameras, one year charge per battery. Want to keep moving cameras away from people (and also from filming people). Deployed differently, and more focussed than previous. NESBREC been very helpful, as we are paying for a service level agreement. £1800 cost for cameras from Nature Spy. DB to purchase.</p>	DB
10	<p>Environment Strategic Plan: Got comments back from Steering Group. Redrafted and needed more maps. Got some comments back, worth getting feedback and will then take to Trustees, ahead of speaking to landowners. Great footage from previous cameras and is shown at BVC.</p>	DB

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11	<p>Governance Refresher: Governance perhaps has a stigma but is important to our roles as trustees. Only had the Constitution four years ago. Legacy initially triggered urgency for governance, although this should have not been a driver it was always required. Workshop held in March 2020; awareness of liabilities was naïve at that point. Governance is the mechanism we have to manage the personal liabilities we have each taken on by being a trustee. It is consistent and fulfils our duty of care to 2nd and 3rd parties. PS implored that we adopt it across all of our activities. Hugh Fraser has updated the ES template and more robust than previously.</p>	All
12	<p>Calendar: Pictures are in ready for draft. Some super sellers, and online sales. Public donated images are difficult with quality, sizes, etc. It is easier to have just one or two photographers. Need to have a strategy meeting, Aug, to streamline and organise this better with admin, sales. Annual Report: AD requested that images are taken with “proper” cameras to ensure the quality of images. Happy to come to take photos if advised dates, etc. SG added that location in Teams is created for Photos.</p>	AD/AH/KN/ SG All
13	<p>Strategy Morning: Should we have another meeting, governance review, strategy, structure, teams training, brain storming, ideas to move forward, 2025 plan? AW suggested refresh on induction meeting. No date set, but requested not in summer and not too long</p>	
14.	<p>First Aid Training: There will be further training in June run by Ringlink. Forestry orientated. First course had issues so going with a new supplier. Max of 8 people. Mountain Rescue have a specific outdoors training that we might consider using in the future.</p>	
15	<p>Bulk emails: There has been major glitch in the system recently with emails not being received. Approval to change from bulk emails to another system confirmed.</p>	WL/SG

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16.	Fields for Wildlife: Harry has planted and hopefully will be rolled in last few days. If successful, may be able to get bigger area in due course on other properties using our 2024 experience as proof of success. Experiment with landowner, seed mix, bird populations. Current mix recommended by RSPB.	
17	BVC Centre / Info boxes Updates for them - display boards, colony posts, BLPG offered to give info on the boards, Alison Kennedy for CairnCutie, Chris Foster for Kailyard, Colin Shepherd,	
18	Big Dig Dig is full. 16 is the max number of volunteers per day which is workable. Mass induction, perhaps spaced on the first day. No family day or child volunteers. Alison Sutherland will host a school visit, just prior to back fill. Additional tools may require to be purchased, at perhaps c£2-300.	AW
19	Container Lots of weeds, needs clearing. PS said meeting HF, will raise. PMN – Ivy sourced and planted	PS
	Meeting Closed 20:54 Next meeting 1st July 2024 – note change to Monday PMN – Revert to Tuesday – PJS unable to attend so AW will chair.	

Signed – Chair – Peter Stock
Date 2nd July 2024



Signed – Secretary – Willie Linklater
Date 2nd July 2024

