

MBCDT – BOARD MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 2018

Date: 30.01.18

Venue: The Kirkmichael Hotel

Present: Liz Mallinson (LM) Chair, John Manning (JM), Darrel Townsend (DT), Roger Clare (RC), Bob Brawn (BB), Miles Goodman (MG), Mike Kerby (MK), Colin Reed (CR) Minutes

Apologies: Kate Hunter (KH), Janet Hunter (JH)

LM welcomed those present

- Minutes from previous meeting were approved
- No conflicts of interest were declared

Treasurers Report - DT

- Figures provided show Bank Balance £10768.89, Restricted Funds £8875.55, Unrestricted Funds £1892.54.
- DT reports successful application for Drumderg Micro Grant of £300 which is ring-fenced for Archive Project website running costs – intention is to apply annually for these funds.
- Reminder of financial year ending 28.02.18 and that outstanding invoices should be received in good time before this date. Invoice for Phone Box Libraries has still not been received and needs chasing – **CR to Action**

Matters Arising

- Community Woodland Update – MK & MG outline their findings regarding two areas of local woodland which are available on the open market and their opinions on viability for commercial and/or community use. The area adjoining Rowan Hill does not appear to fit the Trust's objectives for such a purchase although it does include the pair of telecoms masts. **MG to Action** further investigation of any potential for community interest in this area and how the Trust might help and support once options are explored. The land adjoining Tullochcurran which includes the four small log cabins (thought to be vacant) has some commercial woodland potential but remains problematic. Further investigation needed regarding the area of land adjoining the telephone exchanged that has recently been sold, and also to confirm ownership and intentions regarding areas marked on the map provided by Galbraiths – **MK to Action**.

- Archive Project – DT leads discussion regarding ongoing running costs of the Archive Project (excepting website running costs currently covered by Drumderg Micro Grant) and estimates an annual budget of c£6-700 would be necessary to keep the project live and pro-active. It is felt that no more grant funding would be available to help cover these costs as the project has been heavily funded already. DT asks that a formal decision be made by the Board to formally commit to meeting these costs on an ongoing basis and this is keenly **Agreed by All**. General discussion follows regarding how to best use the project as an asset that may well provide a level of income – a development with local tourism businesses, a family history research resource, a potential tie-in with an academic body and the notion of a local community workshop event are suggestions that require further investigation. The continued high standard of volunteer work from Pat Townsend is also noted.
- Spittal of Glenshee update – DT explains the written communications between himself, John Swinney MSP and Nick Brian/Paul Kettles PKC regarding the state of the site with ongoing serious concerns about safety and visual impact. The letter from PKC suggests that the site should now properly fenced and the building secured, but DT's site visit and letter of 8th January confirm this is very much not the case and the site has in fact deteriorated further. DT to keep Board informed of further outcomes relating to this. There is no further news to report regarding the planning application for the site and it is suggested that both Murray Fergusson and Grant Moir CNPA are contacted for updates – **LM to Action**.
- CBOPS Update – CR (in KH's absence) explains that the new notification system for CBOPS members is now in place and that the first notification and subsequent order has been completed. Just one group member did not understand the new instructions and missed the order and CR has contacted them to clarify. KH reported to CR that the contact at Rix has moved on and this would give us the opportunity to actively re-negotiate the discount rate the scheme receives, and to approach other suppliers in order to secure a new better deal. Some discussion and interest in Stanley Development Trust's similar scheme that takes back a small percentage in order to generate a modest income stream and it was agreed that this should be investigated – **CR to Action**.
- Landscape Partnership update – JM outlines his recent communications with Morag Watson but has not received any concrete updates as to the outcomes of the pre-Christmas meeting and what any next steps might be. Agreed that JH should be contacted - **CR to Action**.
- Development Officer update – LM & CR provide background regarding the application for Development funds that is ongoing with PKC that was circulated to Directors for comment. LM's intention is to take on board any comments received and to have a draft available to Fraser McGowan PKC before the end of this week, followed by formal application soon after. Group discussion regarding the type of feasibility and economic impact studies this would help fund and the income generation projects it would support – with particular regard to outdoor activity events. Other suggestions included Dark Skies initiatives and properly exploring the benefits and possibilities of Superfast Broadband now that it has arrived. A Child

Protection Policy is required by PKC as part of the application which has been drafted and is to be circulated to Directors - **CR to Action**.

- Straloch School update – CR outlines the draft working paper and associated documents of interest in the Straloch folder in Dropbox. CR suggests there is an ‘open door’ opportunity regarding completion of the Stage 2 Community Asset Transfer Application form, but that the level of detail required is of the professional Feasibility Study/formal Business Plan nature and this will require some thought and possibly funding resources. MK explains that the Trust are entitled to view documents such as Title Deeds, last completed property survey and last property valuation - **CR to Action** access to these via John Corrigan PKC.
- Risk Register – keep but downgrade to low risk issue surrounding funding for Archive Project website - **CR to Action**.

AOB

- Group discussion regarding Telephone Box Libraries: both need visiting and a laminated MBCDT Info Sheet - **CR to Action**. Prospect of Ballintuim box discussed again and communication is needed with MBCC to explain that the Trust is in a position to progress with this - **DT to Action** at upcoming MBCC meeting. LM suggested this topic become an agenda point for more detailed discussion at next meeting. MK suggests the old box in Glenshee could feasibly be moved into a more central position in Kirkmichael.
- JM raises issue of old road mile markers in a poor state of repair and agreed that progress should be made to plan to improve and repaint them.
- LM raised the issue of the output sheets from the pre-Xmas development session and has requested they become an agenda point at next meeting - **CR to Action**.
- MK raises issue of current CNPA consultation with particular regard to mention of proposal for provision of housing in Glenshee and if the Trust wish to make a formal response. LM to consider response and asks Directors to familiarise themselves with the document – a PDF is available <http://cairngorms.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/171114CairngormsNationalParkMainIssuesReportFINAL1.pdf>
- RC explains he is due to complete the latest Confirmation Statement for Companies House and that there needs to be on public record a statement that no one member of the MBCDT Board is a “person with significant control” – eg, someone with more voting rights than another member.

END OF MEETING 09.10

Meeting timetable (subject to change at reasonable notice)

- **28th February (VENUE Kirkmichael Hotel)**
- **28th March**
- **25th April**