

TRUSTEES BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Buccleuch Hotel
Thursday 19th January 2017, 19.30

- Present :** Jon Haydon, Tom Mulholland, Robbie Porteous,
Chris Wardhaugh, Peter Beck-Samuels
- Apologies:** Peter Bower, Charli Williamson
- In Attendance:** Ed Glenwright, Amanda Layden
- Members' present:** Robert Stace [nm], Evelyn Stace [nm], Tracey Forsyth [nm],
Rhona Cox, Jason Allan [nm], David Knight [slf], Joan Knight
[slf], Peter Dreghorn, Christine Haydon, Eryl Shields, Dave Jack,
David Hutcheson [nm]

1. Welcome & Apologies:

Tom welcomed everyone to the meeting. He acknowledged the support received by a lot of people, trustees, project officers and members. He emphasised that MCW is about community development and engagement through the medium of woodland ownership, supporting local residents and visitors.

Trustee changes: The following were noted as updates:

- Peter Beck-Samuels, following his move outwith DG10 postcode is no longer an ordinary member. His office of Member Trustee thus ceases, but is nominated as a co-opted Trustee under the terms of the Constitution.
- Colin Brydon has offered his resignation as Trustee, based on his extensive periods of absence from Scotland, and his feeling that he cannot give sufficient commitment to MCW.
- Chris Wardhaugh and Charli Williamson have applied as Trustees, and have been met and assessed by existing Trustees, and were approved as suitable.
- These changes were nominated by Jon, and seconded by Robbie. There was unanimous acceptance of the changes. Chris joined the table of Trustees; Charli had given her apologies.

2. Minutes of Trustees' Meeting held on 08.12.16:

These were accepted as a true record, proposed by Robbie, seconded by Jon.

3. Matters Arising:

- 3.a Pre-meeting: It was noted that there were less comments on Facebook.
- 3.b Mountain biking / Peoples Project: We have not been chosen to progress to the next stage, and thus no further action will take place.
- 3.c Ed Glenwright Report: Ed noted a correction to the minutes in that there is evidence of badger setts throughout the hill.
- 3.d Craigielands: The following was noted:
- There is a lot of work to be done at the site
 - There needs to be a more local support in Beattock itself: we need to meet with the community, perhaps through Martin Brown as chair of the Community Council, holding a public meeting
 - We have a Highlands and Islands Enterprise support person appointed through Scottish Land Fund to help with a feasibility study. He has asked for more background information
 - Forestry Commission Scotland has indicated that they are now looking for a firm commitment to proceed with transfer with a 40 day completion. However this is not statutory, and is unlikely to be adhered to, especially as we are the only group to put in an expression of interest
 - A meeting is to be held on site on 26th January to discuss further
 - A number of issues / opportunities were noted:
 - There are a number of listed sites within the wood
 - A formal valuation will be required
 - The legal issues related to the farm access road
 - Opportunity for a wood fuel business.

JH/TM

4. Project Officer Reports:

- 4a. Ed Glenwright: Ed noted that he has been in touch with 4 potential contractors, and has provided them with copies of the tender document. However, Jon pointed out that the document issued was still in draft form, and did not include details of dates and tender handling procedure. He also pointed out that the documents should be issued formally by the organisation, and returned thereto. Trustees agreed with Jon's comments, and it was agreed that contact should be made with the potential contractors, and revised formal tender documents should be issued.

JH

Ed emphasised the importance of Rural Payments registration in order to apply for FCS grants. It was confirmed that this was being progressed, but there have been problems with their on-line applications.

JH

Ed noted that there were opportunities from FCS for community event grants, and that Mandy also had received this information.

- 4b. Amanda Layden:** The following were noted in relation Community Engagement:
- The Facebook page has been successful with 426 likes to date [there is other data available from Mandy if anyone wishes]
 - Information regarding volunteer opportunities, website and possible events were being made available
 - Positive meetings have been held with Small 'n Tall, Jog Moffat, Nature Reserves, Corehead. Jog Moffat in particular are keen to link and do shared marketing and events.
 - Meetings arranged for the future include:
 - ✓ Moffat Academy at the beginning of March, including development of a questionnaire for pupils
 - ✓ Astronomy Club
 - ✓ FCS
 - ✓ Brownies, Cubs etc [still to be arranged].

AL

Other issues include:

- A draft Policy Document relating to community engagement
- A launch event to celebrate ownership of the hill
- Fundraising ideas [together with Jon and Rhona]:
 - ✓ 'Easy fundraising'
 - ✓ Collecting tins
 - ✓ 'sponsored squares' to be bought on the hill
 - ✓ A tea towel design competition

These were agreed in principle to be taken forward by the subgroup

- Website adjustments together with Eryl.

AL/JH/RC
AL/ES

5. Subgroup Updates:

- 5a. Community Engagement:** The sub-group had not met. However, there was discussion on the need for a consultation paper to go out to members, asking for views on the next steps in the nature of the use of the hill. Chris suggested that this should be in the form of a carefully worded questionnaire, making it clear that any ideas put into practice had to take account of both affordability and practicality. He further suggested that this should be done via Survey Monkey as an easily created and submitted form. It was agreed that an abbreviated paper should go out with the minutes. [*? Action*]

There was also discussion on the need for a further public meeting [not just members] now that the project is 'real'. This was also agreed, but should be a separate event from the questionnaire to members.

[There was a question from a member present as to how the membership list was managed. It was made clear that members could only be included on the list following receipt of a signed application form, and approval at a Trustees meeting].

- 5b. Hill Management:** There has not been a meeting.

- 5c. Finance:** There has not been a meeting; update included in Finance Report [Item 6].

6. Finance Report:

Jon presented his report which had been previously circulated. He emphasised the importance of raising unrestricted funds, and gave potential opportunities, including sponsorship of squares of land as discussed under Item 4b previously.

It was further noted that:

- Jon, Mandy, Rhona Cox, Ian Haddow and Charlie McMillan were to meet as a reconstituted Finance Sub-group
- Our SSE Grant had been noted in the latest Moffat News
- The finance report will change in format now that Charlie has taken over book-keeping management.

CM

7. New Members ratification:

It was noted that there has been a delay in new members ratification as a result of computer problems and Trustee changes. These should be resolved for the next meeting.

PBS/AL

8. Members' Forum:

The following questions / comments were received:

- Question re the mountain biking proposal. It was confirmed that discussions had taken place, but no decisions made, and that it would not progress further without member consultation
- David Hutcheson noted that he had previously been authorised to remove fallen and damaged wood and allowed to use the wood removed. He asked whether this could continue. In response, it was agreed that this should be discussed further, including ensuring that there were no other individuals with similar prior agreement. It was noted that there were biodiversity advantages in leaving some dead wood. Robbie agreed to produce a paper re wood fuel opportunities for the next meeting.
- David Knight from the Scottish Land Fund congratulated MCW on obtaining ownership of Gallow Hill
- Robert Stace, on behalf of the Flood Group, emphasised the importance of maintaining the flood drains which the Council had installed after the clear felling. Robbie agreed to link with the Flood Group over plans on the hill.
- Peter Dreghorn asked that a meeting of the Hill Management Group could be arranged in the near future.

PBS/JH

RP

RP

9. AOCB:

- Peter BS noted that he had received only 3 Trustee declaration forms to date and asked for the others to be sent to him

10. DONM:

Thursday, 23rd February, 19.30, in the Buccleuch Hotel

[Post meeting note: Peter BS cannot make that date: alternative to be agreed].