

**TRUSTEES BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Buccleuch Hotel**  
**Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016, 19.30**

- Present :** Peter Bower, Colin Brydon, Jon Haydon,  
Tom Mulholland, Robbie Porteous, Peter Beck-Samuels
- In Attendance:** Gordon Burgess, Dave Dick, Peter Dreghorn, Christine Haydon,  
Miles Hargreaves, Mandy Layden, Linda Lyons, Eryl Shields
- Members' Apologies:** Rhona Cox, Geoff Kitt

**1. Welcome & Apologies:**

Tom welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular all of the members in attendance.

**2. Minutes of Trustees' Meeting held on 28.07.16:**

These were accepted as a true record, proposed by Peter Bower, seconded by Colin.

**3. Matters Arising:**

**3.a Job Description:**

The advert for the post is ready to go out. Suggested dates for interview, week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> October. Juliet to be approached to be on the interview panel.

**JH**  
**PBS**

**3.b Celebrate:**

Robbie raised the question of the suitability of a winter's night for the bonfire from a safety point of view. An alternative suggestion was to hold it in the spring when nights are lighter, and weather hopefully better. Beltane night [April 30<sup>th</sup>] was a suggested date. There are also historical associations of bonfires in Galloway. This was broadly supported and gives more time to prepare an event.

**RP**

**3.c Scottish Land Fund:**

It was confirmed that the revenue grant has now been received in our bank account.

**3.d Mountain Bike Event:**

Gordon Burgess confirmed that the event was being considered as part of Moffat Gala week. The route would be from the High Street, up Gallow Hill and return. Discussions are taking place with Cycle Scotland. It would not be classed as a race but is a 'Sportive Event'. Safety is a key consideration, including marshals along the route; Gordon is in touch with Moffat Mountain Rescue.

The idea was warmly welcomed. As part of the Gala, it was confirmed that there would be no financial implications for MCW, but we would provide support as appropriate. **Gordon**

**3.e Bat Survey:** Jon confirmed that this has taken place; results will be fed back when available.

**4. Subgroup Updates:**

**4a. Community Engagement:**

A further meeting of the sub-group has not taken place; more supporters are needed for this group.

Website: Eryl updated on progress with the website. This is almost ready to go live, and just needs reviews by those with editorial access. Eryl has transferred ownership of the site from herself to MCW. It was agreed that it should go live, and that we should start advertising it when it is more complete. Comments on the website are welcomed: **Eryl**

[www.moffatcommunitywool.wixsite.com/mcw2016](http://www.moffatcommunitywool.wixsite.com/mcw2016)

Historical Print: Robbie reported on the exhibition in Annan where a print of planting of Gallow Hill was on display. Patrick Johnstone is the owner of the print, but has given permission for us to use it. Robbie suggests that we could produce limited edition prints for sale. He is to investigate whether the print is suitable for this. He also raised the question as to whether we could put on an event around the history of the hill. This was seen as a good idea, and would fit well with the educational aspects of the project. **All**

**4b. Hill Management:**

Jon reported on this:

- Jon has met with an expert in the River Annan Trust reference hydrology. He will come back to Jon with recommendations re drainage on the Hill.
- Ben Biddlecombe-Hall has been producing the detailed GPS data on the hill reference the planting plan. It is time-consuming; Linda and others have been helping him. He does not see a problem with time-scales, with planting taking place in Feb/March next year. He has access to commercial planters who can give us quotes. Ben was given unanimous backing by the Trustees to continue his work, asking him whether he needs more support to finalise the plan without undue pressure. An e-mail is to be sent to him to this effect.
- It was noted that John Reid, archaeologist, has offered to take an aerial film of the Hill using a drone which will be freely available to us to use. The first planned date had to be postponed because of poor weather. A further date is awaited.
- Peter Dreghorn suggested that we could collect sessile oak acorns from Glentool for future planting. It was queried whether there was any issue with the provenance of these acorns; to check with Ben B-H.

**PBS**

#### 4c. Finance:

- SSE Application: This is ready for submission this week **PBS**
- Tesco bid: Public voting to commence on 26<sup>th</sup> September to 9<sup>th</sup> October. Need to ensure that it is widely publicised on website, social media, press release and to members [*post meeting note: voting period has been changed to 31<sup>st</sup> October to 13<sup>th</sup> November with decision at end of November*]
- Fund-raising: A very comprehensive paper from Rhona Cox was tabled. This was seen as a very useful basis for going forward, although some ideas are more suitable for later in the project. Thanks has been sent to Rhona, but it was felt worthwhile meeting with her to discuss her ideas in more detail. The potential for a community orchard was particularly highlighted, perhaps related to the People's Project funding [see next item]. **PBS**
- People's Project: This a project being run by Big Lottery, and as a former grant holder with them we have been invited to apply. It is for up to £50 000 for a significant benefit for, and involvement of the community in, a project which will be filmed for television, and will involve viewers voting. It only requires a 500 word summary at this stage. The potential for a community orchard was raised, but it was felt that this may be fundable out of the Tesco monies. An alternative was the development of a mountain bike skills course and pump track. This has been highlighted by youngsters as part of the Moffat and Beattock Action Plan. In addition to having local benefit, this could be a big draw for visitors, especially if combined with other cycle tracks in the area. It was agreed to go ahead on this basis, on the understanding that we can withdraw if appropriate. **PBS**

#### 5. Legal Update:

Peter BS gave an update on progress:

- Annandale Estates have withdrawn their requirement of having a say on buildings erection on the hill.
- Further documents have been received by Tom Pottinger and are being reviewed.
- We should be in a position to look at completion reasonably soon, although both Tom Pottinger and Annandale Estates' Solicitor are now on holiday.

#### 6. Finance Report:

- There have been no financial transactions in the last month
- Jon has agreed book-keeping arrangements with Charlie McMillan.

## 7. Members' Forum:

- Peter Dreghorn raised the issue of a deer management strategy. This will be a sensitive area. It was agreed that the Hill Management Subgroup should discuss it first, with recommendations to the Board.
- Dave Dick raised the question of natural history recording, such as recording bird, animal and plant sitings. There was discussion as to whether there should be a professional baseline undertaken first, but the general view was that this should be a community-led 'organic' development. We could always revisit the idea of a expert based 'bioblitz' at a more suitable time in the year. Sitings could be systematised to give a valuable database of information as the woodland develops. Eryl and Dave agreed to establish an interest group on Facebook.

**JH**

**Dave /  
Eryl**

## 8. AOCB:

Nil

## 9. DONM:

Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> October, 19.30, in the Buccleuch Hotel.