

**TRUSTEES BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Buccleuch Hotel**  
**Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2016, 19.30**

**Present :** Peter Bower, Colin Brydon, Jon Haydon,  
Tom Mulholland, Robbie Porteous, Peter Beck-Samuels

**In Attendance:** Eryl Shields, Miles Hargreaves

**1. Welcome & Apologies:**

Tom asked if Jon would chair the meeting, since he had been unable to prepare for the meeting; this was agreed. Jon welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

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

**3. Matters Arising:**

**3.[4a] Moffat Show:**

- Congratulations were given to Robbie for all the work on Moffat Show, including designing and obtaining the impressive banner.
- Jon had obtained a gazebo for use at the Show, but Robbie has a pull-out awning on his van which it was agreed should be used since it is much more readily used.
- A rota for cover was agreed, and documentation to be made available was also agreed.

RP

**3.[4b] Job Description:**

- This was approved for advertising asap
- It was proposed that Juliet [subject to appropriate timing] should be on the interview panel given here expertise in this kind of project. Peter BS to contact her.

JH

PBS

### 3.[4b] Celebrate:

- The idea of a bonfire on the top of the hill as a form of celebration for obtaining ownership was warmly welcomed [forgive the pun!]. Hogmanay was a suggested date, but Miles queried whether the winter solstice was a valid alternative. It was agreed to follow it up, by asking for views from Members via e-mail and broader community via a poster; Robbie agreed to prepare the latter. It was also suggested that we may provide some kind of lighting along the route to the top to highlight trees. This has been very successful in other parts of the country. Costings need to be obtained for all of these before a bid can be put forward to BLF.

**PBS  
RP**

**RP  
PBS**

### 3.[7] Scottish Land Fund:

It was noted that the monies had not yet been transferred to our account; Peter BS to e-mail David Knight to confirm.

**PBS**

## 4. Subgroup Updates:

### 4a. Community Engagement:

- Only Colin & Eryl were at the last meeting. There has been no response to a general e-mail to members for involvement in the subgroup.
- An attempt to demonstrate the website was unsuccessful. It was suggested that a separate meeting be held for those who wished to be contributors which would demonstrate what is on offer. Eryl to propose some dates.
- Colin is concerned at the lack of engagement. During discussion it was suggested that:
  - ❑ We produce a bullet-point summary of the minutes which would be more accessible; Peter BS will produce, Robbie is happy to format
  - ❑ We should have positive events for people to get involved, such as walks, stalls in the town, promoting the bonfire idea. The Reforesting Scotland conference is an opportunity to sell ourselves, including a press release.
  - ❑ Increasing the number of Trustees is important; a few possible names were mentioned who are to be approached.

**Eryl**

**PBS  
RP**

**PBS**

### 4b. Hill Management:

- Although Andy and Ben have started work, concern was expressed at the slow progress, including survey work on the hill to establish the degree and type of natural regeneration.
- The draft planting plan enclosed needs more detail. Robbie agreed to discuss with Ben
- Detailed hill survey work was explained by Colin. He and Juliet are hoping to complete the work during the coming week.
- It was emphasised the need for the plan to be forwarded quickly. It was agreed that we should ask whether Ben could complete the plan by 15<sup>th</sup> September, or whether we needed to bring in someone from outside. It was emphasised that there was no criticism of anyone in requesting a short turn round time, accepting the difficulties for people to give volunteer time.

**RP**

**CB**

**RP/JH**

#### 4c. Finance:

- 4c(i). • SSE Application: It was confirmed that following our Expression of Interest, we have been asked to submit a full application by the end of September; decision will be announced in mid-November. The application will include the £7k + money for the capital purchase, together with £20k + towards planting and pond and swale provision. PBS
- Tesco bid: This has been successful, giving us a minimum of £8k; it will now go into the public vote which may give us more. The announcement is sub judice until the public vote commences on 26<sup>th</sup> September.
- Insurance: Jon has been given an outline premium from Keegan and Pennykid of c. £300 for public liability insurance, and other areas of cover.
- 4c(ii) • Fund-raising: Colin's paper has been sent round to all members, but with no response. It was noted that Rhona Cox has expressed an interest in 'sponsor a tree', but Colin has had no feed-back from her as yet. Robbie expressed some concern re proliferation of 'memorials'. It was agreed that this would need careful handling, and the idea of keeping the hill 'natural' would suggest that memorials should be kept to a minimum.
- Book-keeping: It was noted that Charlie McMillan had agreed to act as book-keeper. Jon to meet with him to establish the details. JH

#### 5. Legal Update:

Tom M summarised a meeting which had been held with Tom Pottinger [Jon and Peter BS also present]:

- It was confirmed that Annandale Estates [AE] have dropped the requirement for the hill to be offered back to them should we wish to sell it.
  - We indicated that it is unacceptable for AE to restrict our ability to erect buildings subject to normal planning requirements. Tom P was asked to inform AE of this.
  - Tom P has received a whole pile of deed documents from their solicitor, and is reviewing them.
  - AE have provided a plan which indicates that the 'ransom strip' would cover the houses on the access path. Tom P feels that this is not unreasonable since it avoids trying to unravel agreements between AE and the owners. It was agreed by the Trustees that this was a sensible approach as long as our access to the Hill was not restricted.
  - We emphasised our concerns at the delay in achieving transfer, and Tom P agreed to indicate to AE that we were looking for completion by the end of September at the latest.
  - It was agreed that we need to keep frequent contact with Tom P, and Tom M agreed to do that. TM
- PBS

#### 6. Finance Report:

Jon provided an update to the financial movements.

- It was noted that the Scottish Land Fund monies have still not been received.
- There has been little change in the financial position during the month.
- Auditors: Carson and Trotter were approved as Auditors as proposed
- Accounting Year: 31<sup>st</sup> March as end of year was approved
- Training: Attendance at a SCIO Treasurer course for Jon was approved.
- Awards for All: We are required to complete a final report for Big Lottery for this grant by end of October. PBS/JH

## 7. Members' Forum:

No issues were raised. It was noted that Robbie has 1 membership form. He had also been in touch with Gordon Burgess who is keen to organise a mountain bike event, in liaison with Cycle Scotland. Gordon has not been receiving notifications; Peter BS agreed to chase this up.

PBS

## 8. AOCB:

- Bat Survey: Jon noted that a bat survey would take place on the Hill between 14-17 September. Equipment will be provided, and it is being done in conjunction with the Nature Reserve
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector AGM: Jon noted that this is taking place on 16<sup>th</sup> September in Dumfries if anyone is able to attend.
- It was noted that there is a small group who are drinking on the hill. They do not appear to be creating a problem, but we will need to decide on an approach to such activity.

JH

## 9. DONM:

Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 19.30, in the Buccleuch Hotel.