

MINUTE OF THE BOARD MEETING  
 Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013, CDT office, 7:30pm

Item	Actions
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1) Welcome and apologies

Present: David McCall, Davey Robertson, Blair Urquhart, William Levack, Bob Hughes, Alan Caldwell, Bill Knox, Chris Palmer, Lisa MacDermid, Sharon Rice-Jones

Staff: Claire Mullan, Will Reid and Naomi Clarke

Apologies: Malcolm Allan, Emma Margrett and Andy Heming

Also present: Angela Pohlman

David McCall welcomed Sharon Rice-Jones to her first meeting as a Director of the Trust. He also introduced Angela Pohlman, visiting PhD student from Germany and welcomed her to Comrie.

2) Consideration of the minute of the last meeting

Noting the amendment that Lisa MacDermid had not been present at the last meeting but had sent apologies, the minute of the meeting of the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2013 was approved.

**CM** – print and file in the office public folder and publish on website

3) Welcome and introduction to Sharon Rice-Jones

Sharon introduced herself and gave a resume of the skills and experience she had. This included marketing and economic development in the tourism sector with experience in managing ERDF and LEADER funded projects. An upcoming change in circumstances meant that she would be in a position to offer her skills and experience to help the Trust with their on-going projects.

She was warmly welcomed by the other Board members.

4) Update from Comrie Community Council meeting about Bumble Bee Square

The idea of a land swap on the hillground had been discussed and Davey had conveyed the CDT's offer of help to the CCC Chair.

No clear steering group emerged on the night but there seemed to be two different approaches; anti Co-op and pro Square.

Friends of the Square were co-ordinating the pro-square aspects and the shopkeepers seemed to be leading the anti-co-op

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lobby.

The next steps for Friends of the Square was to continue to collect pledges of cash with an aim of reaching £100,000 which they would then present as an indicator of commitment and strength of feeling in the community when approaching funders.

Additionally, they were seeking funding for a surveyor to carry out an options appraisal of the extra space to the back of the square.

It was agreed that the CDT should continue to offer support to the Friends of the Square.

Another group had formed to help inform and advise the community on communicating with the planning department. It was proposed that this group should also be approached with an offer of help.

Clarification was sought regarding the Hillground in relation to Bumblebee Square. It was clarified that establishing planning consent would add value to the site which could then be sold. This could then be made available to the BBS fund.

Bob Hughes, Treasurer, noted that this would have to be approved by the lenders.

It was agreed that further discussion would be required with CCWG and Friends of the Square to establish the details of what is and isn't possible as well as discussions with the developer.

It was noted that this offer has been made and remains open to the Friends of the Square.

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#### 5) Follow up from ideas meeting

The only note of table discussions had come from the Arts & Crafts Group.

A meeting to discuss paths and walking (which seemed to have a broader application across all the themes) was being organised independently.

On enquiry, it had emerged that the pub was under offer so the "Save the Anni" group was awaiting the outcome of that.

The Entertainments group were working on a lottery application for funding to buy PA equipment.

It was noted that there was still a shortfall on the funding package for the Sports changing facilities. The suggestion was made that the CCWG could look at this. However, David McCall

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offered to take this on. It was recommended that he speak to Emma Margrett to get an update on the current situation.

**David McCall**

Concern was expressed that porta-cabins were too modern a structure to have on site. This was noted but it was also observed that these are to be temporary in nature. This had been discussed further at the recent Joint Working Groups meeting and the concerned parties seem to have been happy with this compromise.

It was reported that the German re-enactment group had offered to help re-connect the ablutions block by doing any manual labour such as trench digging.

This was welcomed as something that could be considered for the future but that the installation of temporary facilities would have an immediate impact on the usability of the Camp.

There was some discussion around whether it would be appropriate for a Tourism group to develop the idea of the sculpture park but it was felt that as the idea originated with the Arts & Crafts group it should stay with them.

It was noted that there was a recurring issue of conflict of interest across the working groups. For example, on the hillground, paths/tourism/arts and crafts/woodlands. It suggested that a Land Management Working Group might be a good idea in order to co-ordinate a strategic overview.

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#### 6) Ryder Cup WG update

Progress had been frustratingly difficult.

The Group has had various conversations and discussions with key parties: Alan Graham - Planning Dept P&K Council, Ailish Lauchlan - P&K Council Community Liaison, PC Euan Mitchell - Local PC at Auchterarder, Andrew Donaldson - Comrie Croft and Andrew Scott - Auchingarrich.

An offer had been made via various channels to make facilities available in whichever way would be most helpful.

The focus is currently on accommodation for volunteers and contractors.

Transport seems to be a key stumbling block and an idea is developing to simply offer the site for parking.

Until now, Alan Graham had been acting as liaison with Antonia Beggs but recently, a more direct approach has been made.

The suggestion was made to approach the touring caravan club and offer simple facilities.

Visit Scotland had been approached but they had been re-directed to the Ryder Cup Liaison Team.

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## 7) CCWG update

### Repairing lease scheme

A paper on proposed allocation of the huts in the repairing lease scheme had been circulated.

The decision had been taken to allocate a hut to all applicants. Provisional allocation had been made and the allocation panel would make its recommendations to the CCWG after the closing date on the 31<sup>st</sup> July and revert to the Board the event of any contentious issues arising.

### District heating

There had been a meeting with the contractors to look at improving efficiency of the system.

There was a possibility of re-couping some of the costs for these measures from the retention.

More heat users remained a key factor.

The feasibility of the Trust meeting the cost of fitting the radiators in order to then sell the heat and benefit from the RHI payments was being explored. The contractor will quote on the cost of the connections.

### Klargester

It was noted that a repair budget of £5000 had been allocated.

The capacity of the system will also need to be revisited as the Camp use increases.

### Comrie Croft Tourism

An application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a Heritage Enterprise Grant, which supports commercial uses for listed buildings was being progressed to the first stage.

### Road repairs

Road repairs are on hold until money is available.

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## 8) Hut 1 update

The inside shell had been stripped out but the plywood panels for

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re-fitting, which are being supplied for free, had been slow to arrive. The contractor and the architect are pursuing delivery as well as looking at other options.

The insulation materials had all arrived.

It is thought that the project would still be on schedule for completion in September.

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## 9) AOCB

### Green Deal assessments

Naomi had trained as a Green Deal assessor but as this was a revenue raising activity, she wouldn't be able to within her current time allocation.

It is proposed that this be done outside of regular hours and Naomi's time be funded from the revenue raised.

Naomi felt that demand would be low and stressed that the aim is still to provide impartial energy advice not sell the Green Deal but it would be good to have some direction from the Board should the situation arise.

It was unclear how this would sit with our charitable status and Alan Caldwell offered to check this with OSCR.

**Alan Caldwell**

### Community Jobs Scotland

The Trust's application to become a CJS employer had been accepted. The Site Management team would discuss and progress.

### Vice-Chair

It was proposed that Emma Margrett should be asked to be Vice Chair as she is currently responsible for Line Management so it would be a good fit.

This was enthusiastically approved.

### 50:50 quota for the Board

This was thought to be a good aspiration to have and should be part of a mission statement but it was felt that enforcing it as a rule was the wrong approach.

It was suggested that by making it a rule, more women would be encouraged to come forward because they would know they wouldn't be on their own.

It was proposed that a combination of aspiration and

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enforcement could be achieved by making it an aspiration immediately and setting a target for achieving it. After which date it should be a rule.

60:40 was suggested in order to allow flexibility in either direction dependent on who came forward as volunteers.

The point was raised that the Trust would surely want the best people for the job but it was noted that encouraging women to come forward wouldn't lower the quality of applicants.

It was thought that whoever stuck their hand up for the job should get it.

It was noted that age-range was also a factor that the Trust should consider.

It was agreed that a Board paper be compiled for future consideration.

**Alan Caldwell and  
Emma Margrett**

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10) Consideration of membership applications

None had been received.

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11) CLOSE

The meeting closed at 9pm

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