



**Directors/Trustees Meeting
Thursday 9 December 2021
held at Gargunnock Community Centre**

Present

Jill Patrick, Gavin Fleming, Stuart Ogg, Mari Jackson (via video), Jon Park, Geoff Peart, Chris Blackstock, Crawford Gordon.

Apologies

Douglas Johnston, Gill Bell, Steve Barnet

1. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 19 August and the Special meeting held on Thursday 8 November 2021 were adopted as true records of these meeting.

3. Follow up actions (Ongoing actions)

All actions from previous meetings completed other than the following ones which are ongoing. Some actions have been updated following discussion at this meeting:

- a. Discussion to develop marketing of Community Centre, progress on this will be made once current Covid-19 situation improves and the Scottish Government allows community centers to be fully reopened. (This will be an agenda item at a future meeting).
- b. Code of Conduct, Privacy and Data Protection and Child Protection Policies to be finalised. Gill and Stuart to look at other policies and then circulate them. Gavin to see whether he can help open documents in Dropbox as Stuart and Gill have had difficulty opening files.
- c. Geoff updated the meeting regarding the Force9 Energy proposals. He noted that Stirling Council Planning had produced a report recommending approval of the new windfarm scheme.
- d. Douglas had contacted Murray Cook regarding Keir Hill. He is supportive of what the Trust proposes. Proposal to clear vegetation off top of hill but focus of Trust activity will be on interpreting the history of the site.

- e. Lottery licence to be renewed in December so names can then be changed
- f. Geoff reported that the bid for monies from the Scottish Government for the Beeches path had been unsuccessful. He was currently trying to ascertain the reasons for the decision and to see whether it was possible to reapply next time there were funds available. Other options for funding will also be explored.

Publication of Trust meeting minutes

Jon suggested that future minutes of Trust meetings could be approved via email once they have been drafted and then published rather than wait until after the subsequent meeting to improve the speed of communication about the activities of the Trust and reduce the time required at meetings going through previous minutes. The only exception to this would be when there was a particularly controversial issue or one which required further discussion before any formal communication is issued. After discussion this idea was approved.

Action: In future minutes of Trust meetings will be drafted, then approved via email and then published unless there is anything controversial or requires further discussion.

Future Trust meeting arrangements

Jon also suggested that the Trust may want to consider having alternate meetings virtually. There was general support for this idea although it was agreed to consider the idea again at the next meeting.

4. Appointment of Office bearers

Following the AGM, office bearers were appointed as follows.

*Chair - Unfilled
Treasurer - Gavin Fleming
Company Secretary - Gill Bell
Community Centre Manager - Chris Blackstock
Meetings Secretary - Stuart Ogg
Membership Secretary - Jill Patrick
Communications Secretary - Jon Park
Land Manager - Crawford Gordon
Path Development Manager - Geoff Peart*

It was noted that the Trust could still nominate an additional trustee.

All roles with stipend attached to them were now filled apart from the Bugle editor role. Jill suggested that the Trust contact the University of Stirling who has students studying journalism so there might be someone interested.

Action: Jill to follow up contact with University of Stirling to see whether there is anyone interested in taking on the role.

5. Company Secretary's Report

In Gill's absence there was no Company Secretary's report.

6. Treasurers Report

Gavin explained the financial table was in a similar format to that used by Douglas previously. He reported that the main changes related to payments for the Playgroup equipment and the SWECO invoice for the work on the Gargunnoch to Stirling path project

Gavin explained the details of the financial table he circulated at the meeting. He currently estimates that the deficit at the year-end will be around £2000 although some of this could be offset to some degree through the receipt of a grant from Stirling Council of £1500. It was recognised that more needed to be done to increase usage and therefore income from community centre lettings although the current Scottish Government Covid restrictions are likely to continue to restrict the number of potential bookings. Chris in his new role as community centre manager will review the situation to see what could be done to enhance the number of bookings.

Going forward Gavin suggested that all capital works for the community centre will be covered by the Project Account and everything else will be accounted for under the Main Account.

7. Community Centre

In the absence of Douglas there was no update report on the community centre.

8. Paths Strategy

Geoff had drafted and circulated a draft Paths Strategy prior to the meeting and now sought views/comments on its content. He explained that the Windfarm Panel had asked for a document so that it could consider applications for funding for path projects in the context of an overall plan. Geoff was thanked for pulling the document together and there only a few minor comments.

Action: Geoff to finalise paths strategy and use to support future Windfarm Fund Panel applications.

9. Land adjacent to Community Centre

Following previous discussions regarding the land adjacent to the community centre, Geoff had attempted to contact the Head of Estates and separately the Chief Executive of Stirling Council without any success; no acknowledgements or responses having been received.

He had then contacted the Development Trust Association to ascertain how best to get a response from the Council. This worked as a response was received from the Estates Department very quickly.

In these responses there did not appear to be any major impediment to the transfer of the land although all the Council services would have to be consulted to determine whether it was indeed surplus to requirements. They have indicated that should the Trust take ownership of this piece of land then any change of use would have to be approved by the Council to protect future Trustees and the local community.

Geoff sought the Trust's approval in principle that it would be interested in pursuing the transfer of this land although no hard commitment was being at this stage although it was acknowledged that the Trust would undertake a community consultation exercise before finally agreeing to take ownership. After discussion it was agreed that the Trust should inform the Council of its 'in-principle' interest in this land and to undertake a community consultation once and if discussions with the Council reach a more conclusive stage.

Action: Geoff to inform the Council of the Trust's in-principle interest in the land adjacent to the Community Centre.

10. Village Shop update

The proposed community survey being undertaken by the Community Council and supported by the Shop sub group was noted with no further action required by the Trust at this stage.

11. Projects update

Gargunock to Stirling path

Geoff noted that there were still difficulties with the Touch Estate and the land agent who was now seeking payment from the Trust for his work in securing agreement to the proposed route. This was now subject to discussion with Sustrans. Route now agreed with Gargunock Estate.

Beeches Path

Unsuccessful bid for Scottish Government funding already noted. Alternative sources will now be sought.

Charlies Loan

First phase now complete, awaiting further material to be delivered by the Council.

Glebe Park

Pond Group had undertaken some preliminary work on a test dig. Sub group is now developing an application for funding.

A811/Station Road safety mirrors LEADER application

This application by the Community Council supported by the Trust had been unsuccessful. In particular the Roads Department does not favor the use of mirrors for safety purposes.

12. Bugle

Jon was thanked for the most recent successful edition of the Bugle. He intimated he will compile the next one although he will be seeking more content from other people. He also wondered what the Trust could do to attract more advertising. It was agreed that this would be an item on the next agenda. As agreed Jill will also follow up contact with University.

Action: Advertising in Bugle to be on next agenda.

13. AOB

There was no other business.

14. Date of next Meeting

20 January 2022

15. Future Trust meeting dates

17 March 2022
19 May 2022
16 June 2022 (AGM)
25 August 2022
27 October 2022
8 December 2022

16. Windfarm Fund Panel future meeting dates

Monday 7 March 2022

Monday 6 June 2022

Monday 3 October 2022

17. Items for future agenda

Marketing of Community Centre

Bugle advertising