

**Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday 31 May 2022, 19.00 hrs.**

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**1. Attendees:**

**Directors:** A Moffat, J Lang, H Buchan, W Levack, C Palmer, D Robertson, J Spurway, B Thow,  
**Staff:** C Crawford, L Manderson, A Warden

**2. Apologies:** C Palmer, H Wood

**3. Minutes of Last Meeting**

Minutes were approved.

**4. Health & Safety**

- **Bees:** Two members of the local community were stung by bees from one of the hives at the camp. The hive owner was advised and the queen bee from the particular hive was destroyed as it is the queen that determines the bees behaviour. As more hives survived the winter than expected the owner will also move some of the hives off the camp to another location. Signage will be erected at the camp to make visitors aware that they are near to hives.
- **Potholes:** arrangements in progress to obtain hard core to fill in potholes. RM offered to assist.

**5. Board Members' Declarations of Personal Interest**

JL advised that he no longer had an association with Beetroot & Chocolate so that conflict of interest no longer existed.

**6. Nomination to the Board**

Lyndsey Brown was unanimously co-opted onto the Board.

Discussion took place on amending process of co-opting members onto the Board. JL working with CDT staff on draft proposal to allow Board members to discuss further.

**7. Finance Update**

- RM raised the issue of LM having to use her own debit and credit cards to purchase furniture and items for the self-catering. It was agreed by the Board that this was unacceptable, but CDT had not been able to obtain an alternative. CDT had not been able to obtain cards from high street banks as all of CDT's business would require to be moved to that bank. However, CDT's current bank Triodos are supportive of charities and their loan rates and conditions are by far the best therefore moving the business would not be in the best interest of CDT. PayPal only issue debit cards to directors for in shop purchases and cannot be used online. Other cards again must be issued to directors, or they have charges associated with them. LM advised that after the self-catering project was complete absolutely no other purchases would be made by staff on behalf of CDT for any other projects. Zoom account was also made on LM credit card and that account will be cancelled.

CC provided a Finance Update prior to the meeting and the following are key points from that.

- CC's focus was on being able to pay bills and staff salaries.
- We have a £30k overdraft but CC is trying to avoid using that.
- CDT require a Reserve Policy going forward.
- Claims submitted to NLHF and HES for £59k on the self-catering project. However final invoices from our main contractor on the contract will total approximately £40k.
- OSCR have been contacted to explain the delay in submitting the Annual Report for 2020/21. It was noted that at the AGM the members
- Companies House have also been contacted and an extension to end of June for submission has been agreed. CC will keep in touch with them and will work with AH to complete these Accounts
- CDT Charges (rent, service charges, utilities): Going forward on Xero these will be sent out monthly,
- CC looking at a more simplistic way of charging over the next 6 months for September onwards. One charge that will be included is climate change.
- Trading Company: Feedback from J&H Mitchells is that this can go ahead. CC will now check with auditors to ensure there are no risks to CDT.  
The Board set up a sub-committee to look at this comprising: WT, RM, and CC.

#### 8. Estates Update

- **Cattle grid at main gate:** A previous decision had been made to remove this grid but at present the cost of removing it, dealing with water drainage, and filling it in is unaffordable. Heavy duty rubber strips have been obtained free of charge and are being used to try to quieten the noise down until we can afford to remove it. Improved signage at the gate area will be erected to draw visitors' attention to the pedestrian gate.
- **Self-catering:** Small amount of snagging to complete.  
HLF: Meeting at the camp took place last week with HLF Investment Manager and Project Manager. They are happy with the progress and pleasantly surprised regarding standards.  
Paint finish: Another meeting took place on site last week with the paint contractor who has raised concerns with the paint manufacturer. Samples were taken to test for gloss (finish should be satin) and paint thickness.  
Concerns are: the durability of the surface; aesthetics of the finish; and if remedial work is required how that is managed whilst the huts are occupied.  
A report from the manufacturer is expected by the end of this week.
- **Landscaping:** JL advised that Scottish Fire Service require to plant 150 trees in the area. JL has been in touch with their Environmental Officer and instead of some trees they will apply for packs of hedging from the Woodland Trust. It is likely that half of the hedging required around the self-catering can be obtained from them by the autumn.
- **Pedestrianisation:** After discussion it was agreed that AW would consult with camp users for their suggestions regarding pedestrianising the main road past the self-catering huts. It was noted that the majority of the public tend to walk up the road and not on the pavement. Options could be completely close that road, close it at night, or leave it open at all times. The Board took a vote at this time and 1 member voted to close it at night and all others voted to close it permanently.
- **External barrier for self-catering:** Initial checks indicate this works, but the installation was not completed when barrier first installed and further work will be required to bring

it into service.

- **Successful Event:** Some ex female members of the TA held their reunion at the Camp and stayed over the last weekend in May. They are now considering returning with a large group next year.
- **Estates Manager Role:** Job has been advertised on CDT website.
- **Cultybraggan Farm Sale:** Discussion took place over the article in the Quair and also the article on CDT's website. Both have given the impression to some of the local community that CDT intend to purchase the Farm. This is not the case and LM will remove the article on the CDT website. JS will work with the Land group to ensure future communications are clearer.  
AW will contact CDT's solicitors to ensure that CDT's servitude rights are included in the sale deeds.

#### 9. **Comrie Heritage Working Group**

- BT announced that he is stepping down from the Heritage Group with immediate effect. AM is stepping into that role.
- JL and SH met with two members of the group: JL and FT who wanted tours to commence in line with the previous route around the Camp. However, CDT's H&S Consultant identified H&S issues with that route and CDT will comply with the consultant's recommendations.

#### 10. **Core Path: Crieff to Comrie**

JL advised that there were four bits of land between the Baird Monument and Comrie over which objections were raised by landowners. Objections have been mostly overcome and one compulsory purchase order will be progressed with.

AM thanked JL for his involvement and helping to make good progress.

CC and JL met Comrie Croft owner regarding funding for this project. Original figures are 8 years old and whilst Sustrans will fund 60%, there are no Council funds available. Therefore, remaining costs would need to be raised and it is estimated that these will be c. £500k at least.

#### 11. **Biodiversity**

RM suggested that, in order to help with biodiversity, especially supporting the insect population and also to save on diesel, chunks of grass be cut less often. RM suggested that between huts only the grass near the huts be mown and the middle ground between the huts be left. Whilst areas of grass would need to be kept cut, the general consensus was that there are other areas around the camp where cutting grass less frequently could assist. This time last year a group of volunteers identified potentially suitable areas and, as CP was part of that group, RM will contact CP to obtain information and also a map that RM can add all the proposed boundaries for mowing.

#### 12. **Toilets at East side of Camp:**

Hut 68 toilet block: These were going to be renovated back to original as they have an historical value centred around the "magic flute" system of flushing. However, in the meantime AW will look at portable toilets in that area of the Camp.

#### **Any Other Business**

- **Affordable Housing:** PKC are carrying out an audit on affordable housing in Perthshire and

working with local organisations. CDT and the Community Council will be represented and CDT will become the anchor group for the audit in this area. Funding for this will be provided by PKC's development fund so there is no cost to the local organisations. A meeting is being held on 28 June in Comrie and RM will advise the venue and time when it is arranged.

- JS raised the amendments to the M&As relating to CDT aims and purposes. Due to the importance and time required to consider and agree to these, a separate meeting Board meeting will be held, and this is expected to be before end of June.
- Communications: RM raised concerns about lack of response to emails and wished to discuss ways in which communications could be improved. During the discussion points were raised highlighting that at times too much information being sent out insufficient time to read/consider it before a meeting. Once the agenda is set it should not be changed unless there are exceptional circumstances. Frequency of meetings was discussed and for major topics special meetings could be convened.
- Comrie Primary School: the school have invited a Board member to present the Environmental prize at the prize giving ceremony on 24 June. RI will attend on behalf of CDT.

**13. Date of Next Meeting**

27 June 2022 commencing 7pm.

AM closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending.

Meeting closed at 22.30 hrs.