

**The Ballantrae Trust  
Board Meeting Minutes  
20<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**In attendance:** Andy McAlpine (Chair), John McIlwraith (Treasurer), Mhairi McKenna, Siobhan Liddington, Gavin Fairbairn, Carol Bell, Alan Bell, Andrew Ward (Creetown Initiative) and Claire Mills.

**1. Apologies**

Jessie Brown, Daniel Cunningham, Aylie McIlwraith and Chris Hanna.

**2. Approval of minutes from meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018.**

Minutes approved by Gavin Fairbairn and seconded by John McIlwraith.

**3. Matters Arising**

**Item 5:** Bank Account. John advised that the bank account has not yet been moved to another provider.

**Action:** John to investigate transferring the account to another provider on Chris's return.

**Item 5:** Graph on Play Park site. **We agreed** to wait until Chris has returned from holiday.

**Action:** Andy to discuss with Chris.

**Item 9:** Harbour Water Connection. John advised that he had obtained a brochure from Scottish Water along with an application form for the installation.

**Action:** John to speak with Scottish Water.

**Item 10:** Food Science Experiment, after school activity. Mrs Templeton advised that she would be pleased for this to go ahead. Alan advised that he would be able to get the materials and carry out the experiments once he was provided with the numbers and age range of the children.

**Action:** Alan, Aylie and Claire to organise this and circulate proposal

**Item 17:** Brainstorming Session on fundraising. Andy proposed that this be done by email. The group **agreed** with this proposal however a discussion ensued about the volume of emails. **It was agreed** that emails should be kept to a minimum and that contributions should only be made if it helped move matters forward. Andrew from Creetown Initiative suggested that the Trust should not be too concerned about fundraising for unrestricted funds at this stage. With lots of groups in the village raising funds for their activities, we should try not to cut across that. Our emphasis should continue to be on securing funds for projects.

**Action:** Andy to circulate some thoughts on simple fundraising for others to add to (easy wins)

**4. Financial Matters.**

The account statement was self-explanatory. John did however highlight that a sum of £741 was deposited on the 6/9/2018 and it was unclear where this was from. Andrew advised that this was likely to be funding received for the Trust "Away Day".

John advised that the Funding Strategy hadn't changed since the last minute. Mhairi informed the group that since the paper had been produced, the Trust had received £5K from the Scottish Regional Food Fund for BFFD 2019. Mhairi had discovered that the application had been successful from an article in the Stranraer Free Press. Mhairi has since contacted the Scottish Regional Food Fund who confirmed the award.

## 5. Update on Membership.

No new members since last meeting. Andy suggested that we need to engage directly with people who had indicated on their application form that they would be happy to help the Trust in some way. He asked Board members to help with that.

**Action.** Andy to consider with Chris how we contact people who have volunteered to help and how best to channel offers of assistance.

## 6.Trust Premises.

Chris proposed that the Trust consider purchasing a Pod for use as the Trust Office. This was discussed, and **it was agreed** that due to costs, timescales and potential difficulty in obtaining a site and planning permission that this should not be pursued. Gavin requested that the group look at buildings by “The Wee House Company”. We discussed a number of other options which will be pursued by Mhairi and Chis on her return. Finding premises for the Trust remains a high priority.

## 7. Place in the Biosphere.

The Community Council and Trust hosted this which considered “Why is Ballantrae a great place to live, work and visit?”. Mhairi, Siobhan, Jessie and Andy had attended this. Siobhan reported that 7 people attended the meeting and that it was very positive. It was suggested that a map be created which identified unique selling points for the area. One suggestion was to make more of the life of Elsie Mackay. Andy hoped that the outcomes could feed in to the review of the village development plan.

## 8. DTAS

Discussion took place regarding the benefits of the DTAS oils and electricity schemes. **All agreed** that this should be pursued if it has the potential to save residents money. We wondered whether the scheme also includes LPG. Mhairi commented that when she tried to use the oil service, the quote was higher than that from her normal supplier. Andy advised that he had saved money on his oil and his electricity bill. Carol informed the group that there had been an enquiry posted on Information Ballantrae recently regarding oil buying schemes. **We agreed** Carol should respond advising that the Trust Board is exploring this. **It was concluded** that the scheme should first be researched to confirm that it has potential to save villagers money and thereafter promoted. DTAS can provide promotional material. Andrew advised that DTAS also have a member of staff who can provide advice and guidance. Alan offered to take the lead on this and said that he would be happy to assist anyone who would like to access the scheme.

### **Action:**

Alan to research the potential of the DTAS schemes, whether they have an arrangement for LPG and to report back to the Board with a proposal

Carol to respond to the enquiry on the Information Ballantrae Facebook page.

## 9. DTAS Conference

Andy advised that the conference sessions had provided lots of ideas. Thoughts from Andrew, Chris and Andy on how some of these ideas might benefit the Trust had been provided in the paper that had been circulated before the meeting.

## 10.Culture Projects.

Cinema film nights are being planned from October and it is intended to have blackout blinds fitted in the main hall of the Community Centre (the Community Association will submit an application to the Ballantrae Community Fund in February). Outdoor cinema at the harbour and / or Glenapp is also being considered. The Board **confirmed** it was content with the

general direction the cultural project programme was taking. Andy advised that Dan had offered to join the cultural group but that he (Andy) would shortly be stepping back from membership of this group.

**11. Update Paper:** The contents of this were noted.

**12. Website**

Alan suggested that the Trust consider companies who can provide websites which include ticketing apps. Alan said that these were professional and easy to use. The companies generally take a 5% fee. Mhairi and Siobhan mentioned that BFFD have experience of using Eventbrite.

**Action.** Alan to pass this suggestion to Chris and Dan.

**13. Ayrshire Paths Initiative (the Carrick Collective):** Andy reported that Claire and Siobhan would be attending a meeting of this group which aims to bring together local communities to improve walking and cycling opportunities in the area. Andy had been trying to get South Ayrshire Council to create a leaflet of Ballantrae walks similar to leaflets for other communities without success. This group might help with that.

**14. Next Meeting on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 8pm in BRICC House**

Andy intimated that he will be on holiday. He would like those who feel able to chair meetings in future when he is unavailable. Mhairi had agreed to chair the next meeting. Andrew asked that we consider using Skype to enable Chris and him to be involved in meetings during the winter reducing the need for her to make the journey particularly in bad weather.

**Action:** Andy and Chris to investigate this and the access to WiFi