

THE BALLANTRAE TRUST BOARD MEETING THURSDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2019

In Attendance: Carol Bell (acting Chair), John McIlwraith (Treasurer), Mhairi McKenna, Alan Bell, Jessie Brown, Dan Cunningham, Andrew Ward (Creetown Initiative), Rebecca Giblin (DO Creetown Initiative), Fiona Conlan (TDO)

Apologies: Andy McAlpine, Gavin Fairbairn, Claire Mills, Aylie McIlwraith

1. **Item 2: Minutes of meeting** Thursday 15th August 2019: These were approved by John and seconded by Jessie.

Items were discussed in a different order from the agenda as the Board was expecting Gordon Fleming to attend the meeting (see item 3).

2. **Item 4: Matters Arising**

Item 11: Revised membership forms were circulated. It was agreed that a small number would be printed to keep in the Community Hall and to take when handing out questionnaires to residents.

Action:

Rebecca to email updated papers to John.

Fiona to print a small number of forms to keep in the community hall.

Item 15: Issue election papers.

Action:

Andy to circulate election papers at the end of September.

Item 16: The creation of a new village development plan is to be discussed with BCC, BCA, BRICC and the Church. Alan asked if there was anything in the SA Action Plan that the Board should be aware of. Mhairi thinks it has been taken down from the SAC website as she saw it once and then could not locate it again.

Actions:

Andy to meet Ballantrae Community Council (BCC) to discuss further.

Mhairi to request the SAC Action Plan from Alec Clark and circulate the URL to Board members.

3. Item 3: The Kings Arms Project

Items 3(a) and (b): These items were moved to the next meeting as there was confusion as to whether the architect was expected to attend the meeting. Alan noted that the building is in good condition. Andrew warned that a brewery would have to be considered carefully due to space needed, overheads and potential returns. Our preference would be to install a manager on a bonus scheme rather than a tenant, in order for the Board to retain control.

Action:

Andy to invite Gordon Fleming to next Board meeting.

Item 3(c): there was a discussion around the age categories included and these will be amended. It was agreed that 16 and 17 year olds would be included in the survey as they are likely to be of legal drinking age when the pub is under community ownership. Andrew suggested that the questionnaire includes questions about the community's needs, not just wants, for the Kings Arms.

Actions:

Rebecca to make changes to questionnaire

Board to decide details to include on questionnaire including collection dates, drop-off arrangements, drop-in sessions and prize draw date.

4. Item 5: Financial Matters

Accounts Summary: John reported that the BFFD budget had now been reconciled. The Carrick Futures grant for the projection equipment will be released when the Public Entertainment Licence for the Community Hall has been issued. John asked about progress of broadband being installed in the hall as the monthly cost (£20+) of the dongle adds up. He also reported that the printer had arrived at his home and could be collected any time.

Actions:

Alan to investigate insurance for the projection equipment.

Carol to contact Alec Clark re broadband.

Grant Funding Strategy: the contents were noted. The Investing in Communities decision is expected at the end of October. Andrew said that Fiona could be trained/mentored at Creetown Initiative if the application is unsuccessful. This can be discussed further if need be.

Action:

Rebecca to amend the date of the SLA submission date, which is incorrect on the document.

5. Item 6: Suggestion for a Trust Project

All were in agreement that the project proposed by Peter Newland of a telescope is a great idea, although there were some concerns, including location, corrosion and abrasion, height and possible funding. This will be looked at again in the future should funding become available. Carol is going to Email and CC Andy in to reply and thank Peter at this time.

Action:

Carol to email Peter (cc Andy) to thank him for the proposal, report that the

Board thinks it's a good idea, more research is needed and that this may not happen in the immediate future.

6. Item 7: Engaging volunteers (Claire)

Move this to the next Board Meeting.

7. Item 8: Other Trust Projects

Item 8(a) BFFD: Mhairi reported sub group met on Monday 16th September, regarding feedback from the BFFD and what they would continue to do next year. Rebecca is working on Minutes from the BFFD sub-group. The BFFD needs to be funded each year for this to run, each year is looking more cost effective. There was discussion about other festivals that do not have a major focus on food and that receive major funding and the need to show SAC that festivals have a place in supporting tourist routes. John noted that public perception of the budget is important re volunteer payments and that this category should be changed. Mhairi reported that there were 4 bottles of Ballantrae Gin remaining.

Actions:

Mhairi to discuss with Alec Clark whether SAC is going to have an events strategy and events fund similar to other areas, such as Dumfries and Galloway.

Events Fund, using the independent economic impact study as evidence to show elected members the impact.

Rebecca to finish BFFD Minutes and send to Mhairi and Carol who will add their notes.

Carol to circulate response to Board feedback.

John to change category on budget from volunteer payments to volunteer expenses.

Item 8(b) Play Park: Benches have been received and are being stored by Fiona Stevenson. She is in contact with the contractors re installation. Sensory panels have been ordered and awaiting delivery. Applications have been submitted for the flying fox.

8. Item 9. Update paper.

The Board noted the contents.

9. Item 10: Feedback from DTAS Conference

Alan, Carol and Andrew all attended the DTAS Conference. Alan and Carol found it useful and inspiring. They attended seminar sessions on the Scottish Land Fund, asset transfers and managing assets. There were general concerns from all participants around reductions in available funding. Andrew said that he was disappointed in the keynote speakers but that the conference was a good opportunity for networking and to hear about other projects, including successes and lessons learned. He encouraged Board members to attend future conferences.

10. Item 11: Membership

There were no new members.

11. Item 12: Updated membership forms

These have been circulated by Chris and are now on the website.

12. Item 13: Issues approved by email since July Board Meeting:

Fiona Conlan's appointment has been approved since the last Board Meeting.

13. Item 14: Policies and Procedures:

Item 14(a) Circulating draft policies and procedures: Carol has circulated three policies for comment.

Actions:

Carol to resend policies and procedures as PDFs.

Board to give any comments to Carol.

Item 14(b) Health & Safety and Safeguarding issues: No H&S or Safeguarding issues have been reported to the Board since the last meeting. Aylie will give an overview of safeguarding and H&S at the January meeting. Other training for Board members is being considered. It was reported that at the DTAS Conference it was made clear that funders are becoming stricter about board responsibilities and relevant training.

14. Cinema equipment

Alan reported that a contractor has been found who can install the projector.

Action:

Rebecca to let Alan know the total figure expected from Carrick Futures for the projector.

15. Any Other Business: There was no other business.

16. Next Meeting: Thursday 17th October 7pm in the Community Hall