



Meeting of Trustees

Date: Tuesday 5 December 2023

Location: Buchanan Memorial Hall, 7:30pm

Present:

Walter McAllister, Margaret McDonald, Louise Doherty, Maureen Saunders, Arthur Hannan, Sandy Fraser, Dave Arcari

1. **Apologies** David Fraser, Jennifer Dodd
2. **Minutes of previous meeting** (16/10/2023) Proposed MS, Seconded SF
3. **Christmas Event**
It was agreed the event was a success, there has been a lot of positive feedback. Thanks were expressed to all who helped with the organising, refreshments and the soft play area and that the event be repeated next year.
4. **Strategic Timber Transport Scheme**
In January 2023 it was understood that the previously prepared application (January 2022) was to be submitted before March 2023. An update on this has been requested and if the response is that it was not lodged then a request will be made for submission before the March 2024 deadline. [MMcD to enquire.](#)
5. **Local Place Plan (LPP)**
There was a well attended drop-in session to share the results of the survey. It was agreed to post the information online. A draft LPP will be available for community comment/approval in January/February 2024.
6. **Community Asset Transfer (CAT) car park & business plan**
Stirling Council requested a ninth extension to the decision date until 30 January 2024 to allow the Decision Panel to meet. The was agreed to as a final extension.
7. **Affordable Housing & Meeting with Paul McLennan, Minister for Housing**
As well as the minister, also attending were representatives of RSHA board and management, Scottish Government officials, Ronnie MacRae CEO and John Forbes, Communities Housing Trust and a representative for Evelyn Tweed who was abroad on government business. The discussion centred around the issues delaying the build in Balmaha. Contractors are tendering high given rising costs and concerns about the potential difficulty of site (possibility of peat, tree stumps and uneven ground). The minister was asked to consider a capital advance, enabling package to reduce the risk for contractors.
The most recent tenders were a year ago, November 2022. It was agreed to re-tender before Christmas as prices are more stabile. [MMcD to request an update.](#)

8. Meeting with Alyn Smith, MP

The meeting was very helpful. Alyn Smith took away issues to follow up.

- Community Asset Transfer delayed decision.
- Lack of affordable housing
- LLTNP recent visitor management study

9. LLTNP: Visitor Management Study, Toilets for Christmas period, willow weaving

- there has been another traffic management study commissioned by the National Park Authority (NPA) recommending a low cost/free park and ride at the 'gateway' in Drymen.
- the NPA has agreed to provide temporary toilets in the car park in Balmaha one the Christmas break.
- the NPA will fund willow weaving workshops for volunteers to learn how to look after the willow maze in the play area in Balmaha. [MMcD to contact Kate Sankey and send out information to the community for volunteers.](#)

10. Communications

Dave Arcari has been posting regularly to the various community social media platforms and asked if seen could trustees like/share where possible. The website is being constantly monitored and security updates done as required. Newsletters have been sent to members.

Next Meeting

Memorial Hall Milton of Buchanan, Tuesday 6 February 2024, 7:30pm