

**Balloch Castle Country Park Regeneration Group**  
**Minutes of meeting held on Thursday 10/10/24, 7pm**  
**Balloch House Hotel**

**Present:** Sally, Audrey, Matt, Gillian

**Apologies:** Catherine, Fraser McLaurin, Cllr Jonathan McColl.

**CHAS/BCCPRG Flags Project**

Audrey updated the group on the meeting she had with Rhianon (Rio) Rose Moore, the artistic director for CHAS's wonderful Hairy Coo Trail in Perth & Kinross (see: <https://hairyhighlandcootrail.co.uk/>) and Gill Hastie an artist who created one of the coos. They will produce visualisations of our proposed Flags project on the Main Avenue and an estimate of costs involved. They will work with local school children and CHAS with Welcome flags for each of the Park entrances to be designed by the school children. Flags to be sited at the Castle to cover the topics Nature/ Staff and Volunteers/ History of the Park. Funds raised from the project go to BCCPRG.

**MAC/UCL Nature Smart Challenge**

Sally will discuss this at the WDC/BCCPRG Partnership Meeting to propose we lead on this project and share info with WDC, the three programmes are  
Ecology and Data Science  
Ecology and Urban Engineering  
Ecology and Climate Change and Health  
Sally will complete the application form ahead of the Partnership meeting.

**WDC Partnership Meeting**

Suggested agenda items for upcoming meeting

Partnership Agreement

Arts/Flags Project

UCL

Masterplan for Park/Development Manager

Kiosk

Send agenda items, Action plan and job spec for Development Manager (Matt to source), ask who will be in attendance from WDC and request that each team is represented.

Sally attended BHCC's meeting where the Community Development Trust was discussed.

Sally will contact BHCC to invite them to a walk around the Park to point out the issues within it.

A discussion on Balloch and why a high-level strategic has not been held to discuss Balloch's future.

## FUNDING

The Strathleven Foundation met on 7/10/24 to discuss our funding application, Catherine Hope has contacted Sally for some clarification on the Group's role within Balloch Park and we should have a decision on our application shortly. Sally will contact Catherine to ask if the £2000 we originally applied for to contribute towards the cost of the EFTEC report could instead be used to refurbish the exhibition area within the Castle. We are confident that the Commonweal Fund will cover the full cost of the report (March 25).

Robertson Trust is a possibility for an application of £30,000 to refurbish the Kiosk.

Sally has been in contact with Leigh Hamilton, LLTNP re Park Rangers and removal of boats from Monkey Island.

LLTNP Rangers have been involved in Water Safety Programmes within the Park. We could possibly access voluntary Rangers once our Partnership Agreement with WDC is signed off. Specialist equipment would be required to lift the last sunken boat.

We still await permission from WDC for Dr Katherine Gunderson, Grand Bequests to have drone access to the North Lodge, Sally will be speaking to Katherine next week.

Sally will attend a Teams Meeting with Rami Okasha, CEO, CHAS to discuss CHAS's possible use of the North Lodge. If they have no use for it then we will consider other options.

Gillian to contact Amanda Reagan, PA to have a meeting organised for w/c 28/10/24.

Sally will contact Gail MacFarlane, WDC to find out what is happening with the slipway at the Moss o' Balloch.

Gillian will contact Karn to ask him to update the website.

It was stated that the website would update automatically once we transfer over to Microsoft 365.

Catherine to organise a training session on Microsoft 365.

WDC are hoping to organise Heritage walks within the Park.

DONM 7/11/24

Meeting closed, Sally thanked everyone for their attendance