

Balloch Castle Country Park Regeneration Group
Minutes of Members Meeting held on
Thursday 12/12/24
Balloch House Hotel

Present: Sally Page, Audrey Baird, Matt Buckland, Gillian Clark, Angela Burns,
Karon Battersby and Cara Thom.

Apologies: Aileen Suter (who passed on her good wishes to the Group), Fiona, BDCC,
Heather Vincent, Catherine O'Hara.

Previous minutes proposed Audrey, seconded Matt.

4. CHAS/BCCPRG Flags Project - Audrey advised that the two artists she was working with had dropped out due to the travelling distance but she is now working with a new artist. Sustrans are looking for some more information before they will make a decision on our funding application, Audrey will continue to liaise with WDC on this. Audrey has also spoken to a National Lottery Engagement Officer who may be able to help with funding.

5. MAC/UCL Challenge. We have been chosen to participate in this project. Sally will attend the Teams Meeting on Friday with Dr Dean Bell for further information.

6. WDC/BCCPRG Memorandum of Understanding is still awaiting the sign off, we will raise this at our next Partnership Meeting in January. Gillian will liaise with WDC to arrange a date.

Karon B passed on her appreciation of the work that the trustees have conducted to date.

7. The Christmas tree event on 7/12/24 raised £99.30 for the Group's funds.

8. North Lodge, no feedback yet from CHAS re interest in having a use for the North Lodge. We still await permission for Grand Bequests to have drone access to the Lodge.

9. Kiosk/ Display Area. Further exploration required on the possibility of a coffee outlet at the Castle, Matt will take this forward. Matt will draw up a Risk Assessment to be sent to Michelle Lynn, WDC Assets Officer, to allow us to progress the exhibition area.

Strathleven Foundation have offered us £2000 which could be used for our exhibition area.

10. Feedback from meetings with Ross Greer, MSP and WDC Councillor Jonathan McColl. Both took on board the issues with the Park and are happy to support us. Councillor McColl supported the idea of a presentation to his fellow Councillors.

11.Walled Garden 12. Natural Asset Interpretation Plan 13.Orientation and Heritage Interpretation Plan.

Matt will arrange a meeting with Freddy and Theresa from Callander and Killin Community Development Trusts for some guidance on engaging a Community Development Officer. We could work with Fraser McLaurin to build on his app. We will prioritise these projects as capacity allows. HLF could fund these.

14. Natural Capital Value for Park/EFTEC

Gavin, Chair KCC, has introduced us to the Trades House, Glasgow, Sally will apply to their Commonwealth Fund to cover the cost of this report and Gavin will provide a letter of support. Sally will check if we would be able to use this fund for the Flags Project.

15. INNS removal

Karon, who volunteers in the Park, advised that they have been working on the removal of Skunk Cabbage, Western Hemlock, Christmas trees, and cutting Willow. Frog Life has surveyed the ponds.

16. Outdoor recreation infrastructure survey.

Matt has identified a suitable GPS Unit and passed information onto Gillian, she will assess it in January. Matt is happy to train others on how to use it.

17. Donations System

Cara suggested we have a look at the Kelvingrove Gallery donation system. Could we run specific fundraising campaigns e.g. Kiosk or Walled Garden using Just Giving, Crowdfunding or Giving Tuesday.

18. Funding for a Development Manager. Matt is arranging meeting,

The Robertson Trust can fund projects up to £5000, could we use them for the Flags project if Sustrans falls through. Sally will check if we could qualify as a SCIO.

19. Website/Newsletter/Communications

Liaise with MAC to gather information to include in a joint Newsletter for issue in the Summer.

20. Microsoft 365. We will continue to familiarise ourselves with the new system.

AOB

Suggestion made that we offer our help to BHCC to assist with their Community engagement as part of the production of the Local Place Plan. Matt will contact Lynne.

DONM 9/1/25 Trustees

Sally wished everyone Seasons Greeting and closed the meeting.