Balloch Castle Country Park Regeneration Group
Minutes of Trustees Meeting held on Thursday 6/8/26
Balloch House Hotel

In attendance: Matt, Sally, Audrey, Cara, Caroline, Gillian.

No matters arising

3. Previous minutes approved by Cara, seconded by Audrey.

4. LHF
The Group will meet via Teams to discuss points raised by Dr Sam Gallacher,Director, Scottish Historic Buildings Trust. Audrey proposed that Dr Gallacher deals directly with West Dunbartonshire Council in the future. All trustees agreed.

5. Pride in Place Funding.
Matt will contact Alger Electrics to follow up on doors for Castle Lobby.
Sally has met up with Archie and James O'Keefe to assess the state of the Pergola, they would like to use wood from the Park for the repairs, Archie will meet up with Gillian Neil to progress.
Walled Garden, Ian Bain has agreed to pay for the survey of the walls, Matt will look for a Stonemason.

6. Website
Cara will update photos on our website. A package of issues we are experiencing will be pulled together which we can take to Karn for a quote to resolve.

Caroline will develop a style guide which we will use in the future.

7. Donations
Matt has confirmed with HMRC that we are set up to receive GiftAid on our donations, he has informed JustGiving and our page will update in 2 weeks.

8. Tree of the Year Nomination.
Jackie Baillie has agreed to produce a film in support of our nomination which she will promote.
Broadleaf Magazine (for Members of the Woodland Trust) have written a feature in their latest edition, they will send us some copies to distribute locally.

Audrey has suggested we place a sign at the Ash tree and something in the Castle lobby to encourage people to vote, she will speak to Gillian Neil. Caroline will have a look at developing an appropriate design on Canva. Voting ends on 29/9/26. Sally will send the link to Sarah Connelly, WDC to distribute to schools.

9. “Who Lives Here” Project
The project is now up and running and has been successfully tested by the children from Haldane Youth Services on a recent visit to the Park when they also presented a Birthday card for the 110th Anniversary. Audrey to write to the artist Laura Henderson to formally thank her on behalf of the Group.

10. Skylark
Sally has sent an email to the Trust in support of their proposal. We await feedback from Mary following her discussions with LLTNP Planning Dept.

11. Strategic Development Partnership
The next meeting has been arranged for 22/10/26 in LLTNP Headquarters. Gillian will chase up attendance from those partners who have not yet responded and provide information about the Pride in Place Grant and new “Balloch Park- Who Lives Here? Nature Trail.

12. Castle Visits
Dr Sam Gallacher, SHBT, has visited the Castle and was granted access to parts of the interior, Historic Environment Scotland will visit on 21/8/26.

13. Meeting with LLSCDT and Nick Wright.
Sally and Gillian will join the Teams meeting on 26/8/26.

14. Michael McGoldrick (Diver) Update.
Michael and other volunteers have offered to clear a stretch of the riverbed of debris and to dig out the remaining boat at Monkey Island. Audrey has identified a charity we can approach to pay for supply of skips and travel costs for divers. Sally will contact WDC to request £1000 remaining from the previous exercise to remove other boats at Monkey Island.

15. Social Media
Caroline stated our facebook page now had 740 followers and our posts attracted 105,000 views in the last 28days.

16. Membership Drive.
Almost ready to launch.

17. Treasurer's Report.
Balance £1166.50, all unrestricted.
Matt has completed our end of year accounts.
It was agreed that £500 will be the minimum figure we have in the bank.

18. AGM.
Date agreed, Thursday 29/10/26.

19. AOB
Community Enterprise is scoping a project on whether or not there is a need for a "Communities for Scotland's Country Parks Alliance/Network. Audrey will speak to them next week to progress.

Sally has written to Magda Swider, WDC Regeneration Team to request a meeting.

DONM to be arranged.

Meeting closed