

**Crieff Community Trust Board Meeting**

**Thursday 17 December 2015, 19:30, at 14 Orchard Park, Crieff**

Present           Alistair Beaton, Roger Brickell (RB), Ailsa Campbell (AC) (Chair), Ian Christie (IC), Charles Crookshank (CC), Dawn Griesbach (DG), Mirela MacInnes (MM), Mhairi Rolin (MR) (Minute Taker)

Apologies       Jim Anderson (JA), Ann Ross (AR)

**1       Welcome**

AC welcomed Alistair Beaton to the meeting.

**2       Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted by all, after agreed amendments.

**3       Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4       Admission of New Members**

There were no new applications for membership.

**5       New Board Members**

Ian Christie was elected to the Board. Charles Crookshank was co-opted onto the Board.

**6       Treasurer's Report**

MM circulated the updated accounts in advance of the meeting. There had been no income and the only expenditure was for the printing of Crieff Matters.

**7       Ownership of Acorn Dell**

JA circulated his report in advance of the meeting. John Glover, the solicitor from the Scotland Community Land Advisory Service, visited the site with JA & AC on 29 November. His report is still outstanding but is expected to recommend that the Trust secures ownership of Acorn Dell for the good of the community. The masonry abutment and the masonry pier remaining from the discontinued railway bridge (the bridge deck was removed many years ago) across the Turret Burn are part of this proposed acquisition. Accordingly, CCT will have a responsibility to ensure they are both stable and properly maintained. Currently, the public can walk along the railway embankment (not part of Acorn Dell) to near the edge of the disused abutment, i.e. to part of Acorn Dell, and at that point they would be several metres above ground level. They are prevented from approaching the sharp drop left by the removal of the railway bridge by a tangle of overgrown vegetation. This is not safe or suitable and CCT would have to erect a better barrier to safeguard the public. The railway pier

has a tree growing out of the top of it. Removal of the tree is logistically problematic as the pier is also very high and inaccessible. The land in question extends to the rear of the properties (except along the beginning of the walk where there is a strip that is not part of Acorn Dell between the path and the first three properties). There are trees in Acorn Dell that are adjacent to other landowners' properties, and the Forestry Commission will provide advice on responsibilities associated with tree ownership. The boundary of Acorn Dell extends to the centreline of the Turret Burn. JA hopes that responsibility for fencing will be covered in John Glover's advice note.

## 8 Group Reports

**Paths (DG & JA) – Acorn Dell:** Thomson Landscapes were awarded the Acorn Dell project. PKC have issued an award letter. A meeting with SSE has been arranged for 07 January to identify the location of services on site. Thomson Landscapes are preparing a Construction Plan.

**Trowan to Comrie:** no further updates.

**Transport (RB) - Strathallan Community Operator Rail Partnership:** The Strathallan Community Operator Rail Partnership was officially launched by Derek Mackay MSP, Scottish Minister for Transport and the Islands, at Gleneagles Station on 15 December. A public meeting will be held in Auchterarder on 19 January and another in Bridge of Allan in February, and the inaugural meeting of the Partnership will take place in Auchterarder on 22 February.

**Town Centre (AC) - Crieff Primary School:** members of the TCG were shown round the school by John Stevenson, PKC Property Services, on 04 December and have since received a summary of the overall costs and a breakdown of the previous maintenance work. They were not able to see the Refectory so another visit is being arranged.

**Options Appraisal - AC & Barry Hargrave** met with Chartered Surveyor, Steve Tolson, on 30 November to discuss this and how to write the brief that will be used to apply for the £5,000 each from COSS and PKC. BH is writing a draft of the brief and will submit it to the Board for approval.

**Funding -** the group plans to meet early in January to decide on a funding strategy.

**Can Do Spaces -** Iain Scott, the leader of the Can Do Spaces project, is working on forming a Can Do Co-op. He believes that, with the support of Co-operative Development Scotland, a Can Do Places Co-op, open to both groups and individuals, will (1) provide a stronger collective voice to raise and champion issues relating to enterprising and Can Do places, and (2) help with procurement of consultants for studies, share expertise and cut costs.

**Edinburgh Woollen Mill & Golf Shop -** AC, BH and Stephen Leckie met with the owner of the EWM and Golf Shop in Crieff on 09 December. He is open to ideas about how the properties could be used, possibly not for retail.

**The Drummond Arms -** The vacating of the EWM & Golf Shop could be the opportunity Crieff needs to acquire the Drummond Arms as they could be part of a joint project around James Square, as suggested in the charrette report. PKC will only issue a Compulsory Purchase Order for a building if it is part of a larger scheme, such as the Cultural Quarter in Mill Street in Perth. According to Isobel Butt, PKC Vacant Property Manager, a project of this kind could be eligible for CARS funding. AC has sent IB the relevant pages of the charrette report and IB was going to contact the owner of the EWM about it. According to Steve Tolson, the most viable option for the Drummond Arms is commercial space on the ground floor, community space on the floor above and residential for the rest of the building.

**The Strathearn Hotel -** Campbell's Bakery commissioned a report on the state of the hotel this month. It concludes that "The hotel building presents a considerable risk of falling masonry, gutters, timber window components etc to the staff, customers, and passers-by using the road and pavement" and

“Redevelopment, involving demolition, would clearly be the best outcome, and indeed the hotel building may now be beyond economic repair. Urgent remedial works are however essential in the immediate future, and it is recommended that you forward this report to the owners, and request that they take immediate action to ensure safety to your property and make the building watertight to limit the ongoing deterioration.” The report has been sent to the hotel owner’s solicitors. AC forwarded the report on to Martin McLelland, Isobel Butt and David Littlejohn of PKC. They are keen to assist with any proposals for the building. CCC and CUSP have both written to PKC to put pressure on them to do something about the former hotel. CCT did not write a letter as AC was aware that the sale had gone to a closing date and that there was a prospective buyer. He has since pulled out of the sale because his application to the Town Centre Empty Homes Fund was unsuccessful.

**Community & Recreation (AR)** – no further updates.

## 9 Any Other Business

**Better Place to Live Fair - 19 March - 11:00-15:00 - Campus** - MR will book a stall for CCT.

**Crieff Monuments** - On 05 December, AC, JA & AR attended a focus group meeting, organised by the Scottish Conservation Studio, on behalf of PKC, to discuss how the Crieff monuments are preserved for the future and how they should be displayed. The monuments, The Crieff Burgh Cross, an 8th Century Pictish cross, The Drummond Cross, a 17th Century market cross and The Town Stocks, a set of stocks dating from the 18th Century, are currently on display in the Crieff Tourist Information Centre. Robin Patel, the consultant who ran the meeting, will recommend in his report that a project team is put together, including partners from the local community, and a project plan is compiled for the redisplay and reinterpretation of the monuments, including the production of replicas for public display.

**Launch of LEADER Programme - 14 January - 15:00-18:30 - Bankfoot Community Church** - AC will forward the invitation to the other Board members.

**Funding from PKC** - PKC has £120k capital for Crieff to be spent in 2016/17 on small scale public realm improvements which help to preserve or enhance the built heritage, and help deliver economic benefits. AC will set up a meeting with CCC and CUSP to discuss using these funds to improve the pavement outside the former Edinburgh Woollen Mill.