

## Beltane Fire Society Board Meeting Minutes

<b>Date and Time:</b>	August 19th 2024 1900
<b>Location:</b>	Beltonia
<b>Present:</b>	Present in person: Jenny Louise Bloom, Neil Barton, Jenny Glover, Robert Lee, Andy MacLeod, Steffie Sutherland,, Franklyn Reinhart Present electronically: Eva Murzyn, Ella Humphries, Steve Glover, Tom Watton

Item	Details	Action on
<b>1. Welcome</b>	<p>Jenny Bloom (Chair) welcomed all attendants, present both in person and electronically.</p> <p>1.i. Jenny B has been tidying up parts of Beltonia and reminded people that the bin key is on a nail beside the door and all recyclables should all go in one bin, but in separate bin bags according to type. She also requested that people should check on any food they put in the fridge, so that it is eaten or disposed of in a timely manner and that the kitchen bins are emptied. It was proposed that every group meeting should check this prior to leaving</p>	All
<b>2. Minutes Agreement</b>	The Minutes from the last meeting on 30 July 2024 were agreed.	
<b>3. Operations Issues</b>	<p><b>3.1 Blues Update</b></p> <p>.i. Formal request from Blues to allow Becky Salter to return as Blue for Samhuinn and beyond. Discussed by Board, no concerns, Agreed.</p> <p>.ii. <u>GO weekend</u>. The Blues asked about the GO weekend programme, as not all slots were full. Andy said he would complete this during the week. There was also a suggestion that there could be a programme item on “Things I’d like to have known when I started GOing; what they didn’t tell me”. Andy will include this in the programme. Steve also agreed to give a short history talk about Samhuinn.</p> <p>.iii. Deceased person appearing on Beltane related social media. This is mostly out of the BFS’s control, but the BFS is aware of the issue and has recorded instances of this. [Community Member] (computer security aka holder of the back door of the internet) may be able to help. Jenny B will discuss this with him.</p>	<p>AMacL</p> <p>AMacL SG</p> <p>JB</p>

	<p><b>3.2 Lughnasadh Feedback (North Berwick Fringe by the Sea torchlight parade on August 4th 2024)</b></p> <p>.i. North Berwick people seemed to enjoy it, especially the fire on the beach and are keen for a repeat in some form next year. It raised the awareness of the BFS for North Berwick in particular and also for East Lothian people who have mentioned that there have been few or no Beltane related events in their area.</p> <p>.ii. There were some unexpected last minute difficulties e.g. there was a sewage leak which led to the route being changed unexpectedly. Also many torches went out prematurely and there was no opportunity to relight them after the procession left the lower car park (lighting torches from other lit torches was not always successful).</p> <p>.ii. There was a lot of room for improvement, mostly communication, planning checking and confirming details e.g. some things booked were not available on the day such as getting ready spaces. The golf club was designated as a getting ready space but it was not adequately prepared and there was a lack of privacy.</p> <p>.iii. The mushroom and light decorations along the route were welcome for the crowd and much appreciated.</p> <p>.iv. The financial situation is not finalised. There are some unused candles, which may be recycled/resold to the Edinburgh torchlight procession. There was a suggestion that only half the people attended had been estimated by the Fringe organisers, but that the upper car park, which was a waiting area where the procession would start, was full to capacity.</p> <p>.v. The drummers' assigned space at the lower car park was filled with motor caravans and people were reluctant and aggressive when asked to move. (This is a N Berwick issue, not BFS). However, the drummers simply moved to the closed off road and moved with the procession.</p> <p>.vi. Tom had arranged coaches to transport performers and others to and from Edinburgh. This was very much welcomed.</p> <p>.vii. It was described as an opportunity to do great things with fire and to do so with a beautiful backdrop of North Berwick bay.</p> <p>.</p>	
	<p><b>3.2a More about Lughnasadh (suggestions)</b></p> <p>.i. There was extensive feedback from Reds, specifically referring to fire and acrobatics. This had to be done on the beach which did not give the procession a good view as they passed by and also was not ideal for the performers. Preference was expressed to do it earlier in the day and on grass, rather than sand. Jenny B, who performed with the Reds, described it as "a bit of a car</p>	

	<p>crash”, referring to the space on the beach provided at the last minute.</p> <p>.ii. BFS members suggested that there should be much more communication about the progress for future events. (Timing was hard, as the event happened shortly after the AGM).</p> <p>.iii. Alex Nuttgens commented that for future events, it should be absolutely clear which parts contain ritual elements. (The original aim seems to have been a ritual event with space for BFS members).</p> <p>Iv. Tom and Sophie (McCarthy) did all the organising with the North Berwick Fringe on the Sea committee. Suggestion to have more people involved in a future event and to ensure that the lines of communication are absolutely clear. (There was the implication that the North Berwick people were not always good at communicating).</p>	
	<p><b>3.3 GO Selection Update</b></p> <p>.i - iv. The board discussed group selection issues arising since the selection meeting.</p> <p>.v. There has been a shout out for a Summer drum crew, but no responses to date.</p> <p>.vi. <u>New project: Remembrance</u></p>	
	<p><b>3.4 GO Weekend</b></p> <p>Andy will put together the list of ideas for the GO training weekend and will distribute the timetable in the next 4 days. Robert noted that the venue would be the Rangers’ Hut in Holyrood Park. Neil stated that the fee for this had been paid. The hours will be 9.30am for 10am to 4pm and the venue would be available until 5pm.</p> <p>Tom will bring stationery stuff and catering.</p> <p>The organisation will be shared between the Festival Secretary (Andy) and Blues. There will be 2 Blues available each day and they may have a few suggestions.</p>	<p>AMacL</p> <p>TW</p>

	<p>Tom will use outdoor space for games (weather permitting). The Book of Games (available on groups' drives) was mentioned as a good source.</p> <p>It was also suggested that all contractors should have a communication about the GO weekend. Ella mentioned that she doesn't really like Slack, so would prefer a communication another way.</p>	<p>TW</p> <p>AMacL</p>
	<p><b>3.5 Open Meeting (Binks Hall, Greyfriars Charteris Centre, Pleasance, September 1st, 1-4.30pm)</b></p> <p>.i. The general idea is that the doors will be open at 1pm for Group Organisers to decorate their tables, then new people can come to ask questions from Board, Blues and GOs. Each group will give a 2 minute presentation, after which audience members can sign up for the open practices at their preferred group. After the meeting ends, a table has been booked at the Ox. for further chatting and drinking.</p> <p>C'tri and Andy Tucker will MC.</p>	
	<p><b>3.6. GO meeting venue (weekly on Tuesdays)</b></p> <p>The GO meeting venue is not yet finalised. A possible suggestion was the Epworth Hall, Nicolson Square.</p>	
	<p><b>3.7 Volunteers Fair, October 1st</b></p> <p>.i. Tom thinks this is a good networking opportunity. Andy says that when he, Jenny G and Zoe-Tara were there last year, there was some interest, but it didn't translate into BFS members.</p> <p>.ii. Tom says he has ordered flyers in general and some may be available for the Volunteers Fair.</p> <p>.iii. Andy and Jenny G will attend this event.</p>	<p>TW</p>
	<p><b>3.8. Review of Contracts</b></p> <p>The contracts for the contractors need to be reviewed and finalised. Jenny B will take the lead on this, with possible support from other Board members.</p>	<p>JB</p>
<b>4 Governance</b>	<p><b>4.1 Trustee Assistants</b></p> <p>The board voted on Trustee Assistants.</p> <p>Volunteer agreements are being prepared.</p>	<p>SS</p>
<b>5. Finance &amp; Income Generation</b>	<p>.i. There are lots of invoices to come, but the insurance has been paid. The bank account will be under the £85,000 limit at the Bank of Scotland (if there is a crash).</p> <p>.ii. Jenny B and Steffie will be signatories for the bank accounts</p>	

	.iii. Tom asks for investigation of methods for card payment. (Currently, it all goes on his own credit card and can be a lot of money).	JB, SS  NB
<b>6. Community issues</b>	[Confidential]	
<b>7. AOB</b>	.i. The Board confirms that they have seen the Reds application form for Samhuinn (there had been concerns that it had gone into a spam folder).  .ii. Lisa (former Safeguarding Officer) has passed festival feedback to Jenny B to review.  .iii. Jenny B has cleaned the Beltonia fridge and encourages anyone visiting Beltonia to keep the kitchen area clean. Tom will produce signs for Beltonia eg “please move out of date food”.  .iv. Tom will arrange a Beltonia amnesty in September 2024, when people can return first aid kits, drums etc. Jenny B has pinging rights on Discord, so will publicise the amnesty date.	JB   TW  TW JB
<b>8. Date of next meeting</b>	The next meeting will be Monday September 16th 2024, 7.15pm for 7.30pm at Beltonia. An online feed will be available.	