

Beltane Fire Society Board Meeting Minutes

Date and Time:	Monday October 14th 2024; 1915 for 1930 start
Location:	Beltonia, and dial in option on invitation
Invited:	All Board members, Blues, EC and other Contractors
Present:	Present in person: Steffie Sutherland, Franklyn Reinhart, Andy MacLeod, Jenny Glover, Neil Barton, Robert Lee Present electronically: Jenny Bloom, Tom Watton, Luca (Blue)

Item	Time	Details	Action
1. Welcome	1915	Welcome from Steffie Sutherland, hosting the meeting. I, II - no apologies, no declarations of interest. There was a round of informal check-ins from all present.	
2. Review of minutes and action points	1920	I The Minutes of the last meeting were approved. II Action points were checked (listed at the end of the Minutes)	
3. Operations Issues <i>[Operations]</i>	1925	<p>I Blues update: There was good feedback from Walkthrough 1 (13/10/2024). Currently there are 5 active Blues: Mairi, James, Luca, Eva and Becky. Gavin (hibernating Blue) will replace James as Blue on the Festival night.</p> <p>II Contractors' update: Signage about closure of Holyrood Park road will be available soon.</p> <p>Update from Historic Scotland about Croft-an-Righ closure: Edinburgh Council has delegated that as a core path, so extra expense needed for Section 11 closure notice. However, that road will be open for cyclists as part of the diversion and also stewarded.</p> <p>Historic Scotland Environment Meeting pending (this week). Some of the prices for hiring space are going up, others down, so the price is roughly the same as last year.</p> <p>EPOG online meeting pending (this week). Bodies present will represent police, fire, ambulance, NHS Lothian and any other relevant bodies. There are likely to be some licensing questions for the BFS.</p> <p>III Groups update: Tom was slightly confused, and arranged an online GO meeting when there was a room booked at Nicolson Square. (this meant two online meetings in a row). However, the online format went well for the Battlefield Sequence, so more use of online meetings may be considered for Beltane 2025.</p>	<p>TW</p> <p>TW</p>

		<p>A couple of groups could use some extra support and will have a blues visit.</p> <p>Ann (Steward GO) is feeling optimistic. Ella (FoH) is busy with Family Samhuinn this Sunday, but Andy MacL or Jenny G have been at meetings to support Ann and she seems to be doing very well.</p> <p>Tech is reported to be low on numbers. There were 2 GOs and 2 members at Walkthrough 1 (but there may be more at Walkthrough 2).</p> <p>IV Fire Spinners at Eden Festival: The request is for Fire Spinners to attend and perform. However, this is not until next Summer. If there is a Fire Point at Beltane, this request will need to be discussed with them (if no Fire Point application, then consult membership). .</p> <p>There was a suggestion to do a costing including welfare conditions and send it to Eden to see if they are interested. It was noted that there are likely to be financial (insurance) considerations.</p> <p>Tom is aware of how much Kelburn charges and does not want to undercut other groups. He will also declare a conflict of interest when he contacts Eden with the proposed costings.</p> <p>V Ticket information on the website and how to improve the process: Currently 4,700 tickets sold from 5,000 cap. There will be approximately 300 neighbours' pink letters to show to Stewards for admission.</p> <p>It's possible to consider increasing the capacity, but that will mean extra including about £3-4,000 for the licensing. There was some discussion about when information was made available about Samhuinn eg the artist should have sent the artwork to both Board and Gabbi.</p> <p>The suggestions were that the process needs to be improved and there needs to be better communication with Gabbi eg the Festival blurb needs to be passed to the Board for approval before being released on the website. It would be very helpful for Gabbi to present regular updates which can be put in a shared drive.</p> <p>VI Cut off time for Torchbearers and Stewards: Cut off time for these groups is Walkthrough 2 (27/10/24). The Torchbearers group is already full, so this might not apply, but there are likely to be late applications for Stewards.</p> <p>Walkthrough 2 is very close to the Festival night, which puts some pressure on last minute recruitment (that is, submitting Volunteer Agreements, Fire Safety training, Health and Safety Briefings, Safeguard checking of new recruits' names and defining the scope of Steward training to new recruits)..</p>	<p>TW</p> <p>Gabbi, A MacL</p> <p>Gabbi, SS</p>
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<p>4. Governance Issues [Governance]</p>	2020	<p>I Safeguarding recruitment: Ongoing, potentially near completion.</p> <p>II Articles of Association: All changes which have been voted on have been included, however, there are still some ambiguities including minimum age of admission to BFS. These were not discussed in detail, due to lack of time. Action to pass ambiguity details to Chair and Vice Chair.</p> <p>III Trustee Assistants: SS to meet with Alex Nuttgens to consider a plan on how to best utilise Trustee Assistants' skills.</p>	<p>JB</p> <p>JG</p> <p>SS</p>
<p>5. Finance & Income Generation [Governance]</p>	2040	<p>I Finance update: The Treasurer (Neil) had sent a link with the financial details. Discussion of this was covered quickly, due to lack of time, but the salient points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plenty of money in the bank. Lughnasagh costs were approximately £12,000, but potentially there will be an invoice from Fringe by the Sea for £8,000 and surplus torches will go to stock. - The Queens' event at the Pleasance ran at a loss, but no problem as it was a service for members. - Application posted for Bank of Scotland debit card (they don't do credit cards for charities) 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gift aid information done and posted. - Companies House and OSCR information filed - There are still some costs to come for Samhuinn. - JB had not received some bank information 	NB
6. Community Issues	2050	<p>I Length of time to be on non-GO list: This was discussed with regard to one particular case, and TW suggested that a reasonable time would be 3 Festivals, with the caveat that this could be changed, depending on the individual case.</p> <p>II Feedback from Volunteer Fair and request about Mascot for 2025: There was quite a bit of interest and some people have come forward to be Stewards. Joe Goldblatt (Volunteer Fair Trustee) has asked to commission the BFS to produce a mascot for the 2025 Fair, which can be outside, to attract more people to attend. He particularly asked for Ella's help with this</p> <p>III Feedback from Beltane exhibition at Kafe Kweer: This is a small exhibition on show until end October/beginning November. It's in a basement and consists of one Summer costume and about 25 photographs of various Beltanes. It was described as interesting and worth seeing, and there may well be potential for more exhibitions.</p> <p>IV Potential involvement with Royal High School Trust: After discussion, it was decided that the BFS should send a general message to the Trust, to mention BFS's involvement as a local charity involved with Calton Hill.</p> <p>V Keening and dreadlocks consultations: This is a long standing issue. There was little time to discuss this and the discussion is carried forward to the next Board meeting.</p> <p>VI Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival, July 2025: Applications available for 2025 festival in "late 2024". Message sent to request if it's possible to take part in the procession and/or carnival. [Later note: Giles Agis, Carnival and Community Manager, has replied that application forms will be available in December].</p> <p>VII Calton Hill issues: The Calton Hill Conservation Trust has been in touch to request:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No unauthorised tree planting (Note: the last tree planting BFS was involved with was in conjunction with an Edinburgh Council initiative). - Litter pick on 26/10/24 - Outreach suggestion to pick some invasive ivy from selected parts of the hill for decoration with the Yule meal (agreed with the Trust and with Cinder, who is organising the meal) - Suggestion to add a subsidy to the ticket price for festivals. This needs to be considered and will be discussed at the next Board meeting. - <p>VIII Safeguarding case Redacted</p>	<p>SS</p> <p>TW, Ella Humphries</p> <p>JB</p> <p>Agenda item for next Board meeting</p> <p>Agenda item for next Board meeting</p> <p>JG & Trustee Assistants</p> <p>Agenda item for next Board meeting</p>

7. AOB	2115	Request for people to respond eg with thumbs up to show that they have read relevant messages on Slack.	All
8. Next Meeting	2120	The next meeting will be held on Monday November 18th, 2024, 1915 for 1930, at Beltonia, electronic option available.	