

Beltane Fire Society
Board Meeting Minutes
 (timings are more approximate than usual)

Date and Time:	Monday, February 10th 2025, 1915 for 1930
Location:	Beltonia
Present:	Present in person: Jenny Bloom, Andy MacLeod, Franklyn Reinhart, Neil Barton, Jenny Glover Present electronically: Steffie Sutherland, Tom Watton, Steve Glover, Simone Last (Safeguarding) Apologies: None

Item		Details	Action on
1. Welcome	1930	Jenny Bloom welcomed everyone to the meeting, and there was some introductory chat on general topics such as the Goblinssss group being able to use the Maypole from last Beltane as a radio mast (suggestion to cover it with tin foil), that the first GO meeting would be a zoom one and that Simone and Mary would have a one hour slot for the Consent workshop at the GO weekend. There were no Declarations of Interest.	
2. Minutes Agreement and review of urgent action points	1935	The Minutes, which had had a few minor changes, were agreed. It was noted that there had been no reply from a community member, who had expressed an interest in being involved in the GO weekend to discuss accessibility. Action: Jenny Glover to write to her to ask if she wishes to be involved with the GOs in the run up to Beltane. It was suggested that there should be a clean-up of the GO drive to cover topics such as the timeline, meeting dates etc. Action on Tom Watton and Andy MacLeod	8.1 J Glover 8.2 T Watton, A MacLeod
3. Operations (X/Twitter)	1940	The Beltane Fire Society has an account on X/Twitter. There are not enough BFS people managing it and there is some concern about the attitude of X/Twitter's new owner. The suggestion is to leave the account open, but inactive and put a marker to say that no new material will be added, and move to Blue Sky. Action on Gabbi Sloss and Andy MacLeod to check and discuss Blue Sky usage. (Gabbi will be at the GO training weekend). Action also to make the X/Twitter account inactive with marker as above, and to consider if there are other suitable social media hosts other than Blue Sky.	8.3 G Sloss, A MacLeod 8.4 R Lee, A MacLeod
Operations (Hoodies for sale)	1945	Tom has hoodies which can be for sale at the Open Meeting. However, his van is not allowed in the LEZ area by the venue, but he can park by the Pleasance and have a hoodie run. Helpers would be most welcome (this isn't quite an action, but is a request).	

Operations (Crowd Control training for Contractors)	1950	<p>The Samhuinn feedback indicated that there was scope to improve crowd control.</p> <p>The following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Having a white line on the ground for people to stand behind was quite successful - The Samhuinn event infrastructure had some spots where the space was not quite right, but the risk was very low - There should be a safer approach with a POP assessment - this is a very basic introduction to the behaviour cycle, to de-escalate, for people to look after themselves. Action: Tom will teach this and base it on the last update of the Purple Guide and Zone Ex. <p>Action: Tom Watton and Ella Humphries will discuss the above and will identify potential training needs for the new contractors who will start officially at Samhuinn.</p> <p>It was noted that the Public Safety Department of Edinburgh Council are very helpful with advice and also extremely knowledgeable. However, it is important to get the balance right for the psychology of getting people to move in certain directions.</p>	<p>8.5 T Watton</p> <p>8.6 T Watton, E Humphries</p>
Operations (Art poster)	2000	There were nine submissions for the 2025 BFS poster. A panel of 7 people, including Board and Blues decided that the winning submission was from Becky Salter (to whom, congratulations are given).	
Operations (Contractor hiring update)	2005	<p>The notes for this section are very general as there was a Conflict of Interest with a trustee.</p> <p>Front of House</p> <p>Some applications have been received and a matrix (like the one for the GO applications) will be made.</p> <p>There will be a pro forma for the matrix on questions and the aim is to get the successful candidate selected to shadow Ella in April.</p> <p>Action: Jenny Bloom and Tom Watton to work on this; some Community Organisers expressed interest in being involved.</p> <p>Rob Thorburn's role</p> <p>There needs to be some information on the job remit to help with the advertisement for the job. Action: Jenny Bloom and Tom Watton to make a plan for the Event Coordinator's Assistant role.</p>	<p>8.9 J Bloom, T Watton</p> <p>8.10 J Bloom, T Watton</p>
Operations (Tech and GOs)	2020	<p>There is concern about the lack of applications for Tech GOs at Beltane. It has been assumed that the Production and Site Contractor is the backstop and the role of the Tech GO is more social. Peter Jackson (Tech GO at Samhuinn) has suggested that there definitely needs to be more van drivers.</p> <p>Action on Tom Watton to consider any potential GO Tech GO candidates, though all the Board were asked to think about possible people. Tom said he would contact a community member.</p> <p>Robert, who has also been in Tech, said that it may help if more people know just what is involved, for example, it is not all moving stuff, spreadsheet administration is also needed.</p>	8.11 T Watton, All Board

		<p>The Tech group run the Cue Sheet, but Tom Watton says he can help with this if necessary.</p> <p>The aim for Beltane is to make the build more collaborative (that is, more help from BFS members).</p> <p>Tech can be stressful, as there is lots of kit to fit in and groups tend to have expectations of what Tech can do for them, but hopefully Rob Thorburn, as the relevant contractor, will be able to help and support the BFS Tech team.</p>	
Operations (Bower and MC call out))	2030	<p>Bower</p> <p>There is currently no GO for the Bower. A community member has expressed interest with a duck's nest theme, but has not committed to this and at the time of writing has no co-GO.</p> <p>A community member has expressed interest in a bee themed Bower, but does not have a co-GO and has not made an application.</p> <p>Various community members have offered support.</p> <p><i>Redacted</i></p>	
Governance (Membership spreadsheet)	2040	<p>Robert Lee as Sysadmin has been working on changes to the membership spreadsheet. A reasonable amount has been done.</p> <p>Action: A couple of changes are needed on the Google drive as an Excel spreadsheet. The aim is to be able to edit automatically, without creating several copies of the Google sheet. It may be possible to edit through a web application.</p>	8.13 R Lee
Governance (Earth, Our Mother, Proposal)	2045	<p>This is a sustainability working group, led by Sammi Searle, who has asked for Board approval to proceed with it. This suggestion was approved by the Board.</p> <p>There are further requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To have a BFS address. Sammi Searle and the group are to decide what the official name will be and Robert Lee to provide the relevant address. - To have funds to rent space, as Beltonia has some accessibility challenges. This was agreed in principle, and it was suggested to look for rooms in a community centre - That a representative from the Board should attend meetings. The Board agreement was that a Board representative would be able to attend meetings occasionally, but that one Board member would not be able to attend them all. There was interest in occasional meeting attendance from Jenny Bloom, Franklyn Reinhart and Jenny Glover. There was also interest from Blues, such as Simone, and possibly former Blues. Sammi would need to provide the Board with meeting details. - To have permission to come to Board meetings. The Board agreed that people could attend Board meetings if arranged in advance. - Permission for someone on the committee to have access to membership data when appropriate e.g. to do surveys. The Board agreed that technical requirements would be provided as necessary, but each request would need Board approval and automatic access would not be allowed, due to GDPR, privacy and security requirements. 	8.14 S Searle and R Lee

		Action: Steffie Sutherland to respond to Sammi Searle with responses to her requests.	8.15 S Sutherland
Finance and Income Generation (Group subscription, hardship fund)	2055	<p>The Hardship Fund was discussed. There are about ten amounts of £50 available. This is dealt with in confidence, and only the applicant and the Treasurer are aware of who applies. Neil Barton mentioned that a low number of people apply, about 3-4 people per festival.</p> <p>Action: Neil Barton to mention this at the Open Meeting on February 22nd.</p> <p>Last year, the Board did a Policy Document on this subject. Action: Tom Watton to circulate this to the Board.</p> <p>BFS Subsidies The cost of face paint is subsidised. Action: R Lee to mention this in the next issue of the Beltonia Bugle.</p>	<p>8.16 N Barton</p> <p>8.17 T Watton (action completed)</p> <p>8.18 R Lee</p>
Finance and Income Generation	2100	<p>The monthly financial figures had been sent to all Board members,</p> <p>January accounts Not much happens in January - the only costs involved room booking and Imbolc. The Torch equipment was accounted for in the December 2024 figures.</p>	
Community (Blues and Board social)	2105	It was decided that this should be discussed on a Slack thread. Action: Jenny Bloom to create this.	8.19 J Bloom
Community (everyone's wellbeing)	2110	<p>There are a lot of changes happening with Board, Contractors and Blues. For contractors, Ella Humphries and Rob Thorburn will be stepping down after Beltane and there will be two new contractors for Samhuinn. For Blues, there have been some changes with some Blues, and there are some new Blues.</p> <p>This is a chronic issue and changes like this have been happening for some years, including Board members burning out. Tom, for example, is the first Event Coordinator to last more than three years in the job.</p> <p>This has become more noticeable due to the Covid pandemic and we have to think of ways to make things more fun, without neglecting to address the issues which do need addressing.</p> <p>Action: Steffie Sutherland to make a Slack thread for social and wellbeing. This may involve asking people involved for the past five years what would have helped them stay on.</p>	8.20 S Sutherland
Community (new CO)	2115	Andy Walker has been proposed as a new Community Organiser and point of contact for technical support. This was approved by the Board.	
Safeguarding (new form pilot)	2117	<p>There is a new form to help people facilitate submitting forms. One form has the person's name, the other is anonymous with the caveat that it's difficult to act on an anonymous form, but that it's important to give people that option.</p> <p>It will be discussed at the GO training weekend, then passed to the membership.</p> <p>The pilot will last for three months, then will be assessed to consider how to proceed. The aim of the form is to take out the difficulty of having to fill</p>	

		<p>in a blank email. Board feedback is welcome, so that the form is in the best shape before distribution. Action: Board to look at the form and consider feedback.</p> <p>The form has already been tested by a Community Organiser and by a Blue.</p>	8.21 Board
8. AOB	2020	<p>Blether Feedback from the recent Blether on “Envisioning Samhuinn” has not yet been passed to the membership. Jenny Glover proposed that an abbreviated version of the feedback should be passed to the membership via social media. Action: Jenny Glover to write a brief summary of feedback and put on Slack for the rest of the Board to consider and/or clarify.</p> <p>Parks levy Tom Watton has received a response from the parks department about the fees which will be chargeable (it is a lot of money!)</p> <p>Last minute arrangements for the GO Training Weekend Simone’s slot for safeguarding will include a presentation - Tom will follow up with Erin at the venue about access to a projector. (It will also be useful to have the GO drive on screen).</p>	8.22 J Glover
9. Date of next meeting	2130	<p>The next meeting will be held on March 10th 2025.</p> <p>There will be an electronic option.</p>	