

Beltane Fire Society Board Meeting Minutes

Date and Time:	Sunday June 1st 2025 3-5pm
Location:	Online
Present:	Present: Jenny Bloom, Neil Barton, Robert Lee, Steffie Sutherland, Jenny Glover, Becky Salter, Nate Kelso, Steve Glover, Tom Watton Apologies: Simone Last, Franklyn Reinhart

Item		Details	Action on
1. Welcome and general	1500	Jenny Bloom opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. There were no Declarations of Interest. Everyone checked in.	
2. Minutes Agreement and review of urgent action points	1510	The Minutes from the last meeting (May 6th) were approved. About the action points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The BFS Environment Policy is being formulated by the Earth Our Mother group and is proceeding well - There are no surprises or overlooked actions, all are in hand. 	
3. Operations (Blues update)	1520	There was nothing new since the Blue update at the Blue, Board and Contractors meeting (May 28th),	
Operations (Contractors' update) Tom Watton	1525	Tom reported that a community member had requested use of the BFS gazebo, and he had tentatively quoted a £125 hire fee He is in touch with the Parks Department to request a levy update. Negotiations are continuing for Samhuinn, and it is safe to tell group members that the venue will be Calton Hill. Jenny Bloom (Chair) said this would be included in the Chair's Report, which is in preparation.	

		<p>However, the route or format of the Samhuinn Festival is not yet formalised. Tom has suggested that there should be a pre-Shout Out Meeting with Blues to discuss this, then a Court meeting when they have been appointed (Action 12.1)</p>	12.1 Tom, Blues
Operations (Community Organisers' Update)	1549	<p>There was a Beltonia Brunch meeting on May 30th, with lots of engagement and some matters delegated, such as the sign in for the AGM. It was nice to see a mixture of people, including regular attendees. The next meeting will be held in July (date to be arranged).</p>	
Operations (first aid training, physical and mental)	1550	<p>The situation about first aid is that kits are distributed to groups for use during practices and the walkthroughs, but on the night, all first aid incidents will be directed to the first aid station, situated at the car park.</p> <p>In addition, fire blankets are held by Tech, but not by the groups.</p> <p>A community member had commented on use of first aid kits, confirming that it had been used plenty of times during Walkthroughs. He reported that he had felt like the only first aider available at the walkthrough and in his group. There were other first aiders but it is clear we could have better signposting/share this information wider.</p> <p>Tom responded that there could be a small shout out about First Aid Training and noted that about 7 first aiders had been identified at each Walkthrough.</p> <p>There was a discussion about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who to train - Whether trained people would remain in the Society - At what level should they be trained - Whether the training should be physical or mental first aid or both. <p>Simone Last mentioned that there is an option for mental first aid training with Brook.</p> <p>There was a general consensus that mental first aid training mainly helps people to sign post services and this might be less relevant to the society.</p>	

		<p>There was also discussion suggesting that one person should be trained per festival, but that there needs to be a list of who is trained, as a lot of people already have skills and training, who can help in an emergency.</p> <p>The action is to update the participants' form to identify who is trained in physical/mental first aid.</p> <p>However, Tom recommended that every Acrobatics group should have at least one person trained, and that this information should be added to the Volunteers' form and the GO application form.</p> <p>Members of acrobatics groups have been suggested that they could invest in a sports injury kit (this, like acrobatics shoes, are not provided by the BFS).</p> <p>This resulted in further discussion about the expense of being in acrobatics groups, so it was suggested that there could be a request for these groups to pay $\frac{1}{3}$ of the cost for relevant items and parallels to the existing drum subsidy were mentioned.</p> <p>For acrobatic training, it was noted that it only takes a pyramid to collapse to lead to a number of injuries. There are resources at Tumbles and other sports centres to get appropriate training.</p> <p>It was pointed out that there is also a need for a first aider in the fire groups, people may require fire burns gel.</p> <p>The decision about first aid training was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consensus to offer first aid training to appropriate people - Offer to be made to Contractors and Court (Skylark offer suitable training) - This should be mentioned in a GO shout out - To investigate what is the most appropriate method and who should be trained. (Action 12.3) 	<p>12.2 Board</p> <p>12.3 Tom</p>

Finance	1600	<p>The April accounts have been done and there are draft accounts for May, which are similar to the handout shown at the Blues Board and Contractors' Debrief on May 28th.</p> <p>There is currently a Beltane surplus of approximately £32,500.</p> <p>The Board expressed their thanks and appreciation to Neil for all his hard work.</p>	
Community (Lughnasadh plans)	1610	<p>There was discussion about Lughnasadh, with general agreement that it should be celebrated - but should it be with a camping weekend or a daytime event, possibly including a picnic?</p> <p>If a camping weekend, this really needs to be done on private land, with the permission of the landowner. Rob Thorburn is agreeable to BFS members camping on his land, preferably during the 2nd week in August (though BFS will need to arrange to supply a couple of chemical toilets).</p> <p>Rob's land is near Biggar, so people attending will need to sort out transport.</p> <p>Jenny Bloom would like to arrange this, but needs help. There is a shortage of Board support for logistical reasons. There was a suggestion to ask Community Organisers, with a deadline of before the AGM.</p> <p>The alternative to this would be a beach barbecue with games as a day event or some other day event.</p> <p>Jenny B will help to organise whatever group members prefer, either her preference of a weekend away camping or a day time beach barbecue, but can't do it on her own (Action 12.4).</p>	12.4 Jenny B
Community (potential zoo visits)	1625	<p>The Edinburgh Zoo is wishing to increase their community links and a community member, who works there, has approached the BFS to see if there is any interest.</p> <p>The Board is interested in checking whether the Zoo offer is still open. If so, whether it's possible to arrange a date for the Community Organisers, Board and Blues.</p>	

		Also, if there is an animal or conservation related group for Samhuinn, then they may wish to attend the zoo and hopefully talk to one of the experts there (this information is not known at present). Jenny G to ask Community Member about the current situation and to see if zoo visits are possible (Action 12.5)	12.5 Jenny G
Community (Blethers and if there is an alternative to Blethers)	1635	<p>In the Volunteer Survey, there were some suggestions for Blethers. In the past, Blethers have been held about once a year, and only when there are urgent or very important subjects to discuss.</p> <p>There was discussion about possible alternatives to Blethers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discord thread - Newsletters <p>None of these contact all of the membership. Consequently, it was suggested that there should be access for members to express their views on particular topics at the AGM on June 14th.</p> <p>Consequently, it was suggested that there should be two lengths of paper and biro pens (NOT thick felt tips which are difficult to read) and possibly a suggestion box for people to write suggestions on post-its.</p> <p>This will be included in the AGM mail out and also in the Beltonia Bugle newsletter (Action 12.6)</p> <p>Jenny G will be at the AGM and will monitor the suggestions from members at the AGM. Subjects to be covered will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to have discussions as a community and encourage engagement/two-way flow of information • How to build or expand a culture of kindness. What does our community do well? How could we do better? Do our policies and approaches match our actual values? • Speaking English on the Hill and other changing traditions. (Action 12.6) 	12.6 Jenny B, Robert, Jenny G, Tom
Community (possible membership)	1650	The Board is interested in encouraging more contacts with the membership between Festivals and possible suggestions were:	

meetings)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monthly social gathering pub or picnic with a particular theme - Saturday morning events at Beltonia. 	
AOB	1655	<p>Jenny G is working on a project idea for Samhuinn, tentatively called “Beltane Unveiled” to have meetings where members, especially new members, can be better informed in a fun/informal way about background information to the Beltane festivals, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Being able to watch vintage Samhuinn DVDs - Going on an evening walk to assess risks - Hearing stories about the Festival themes. <p>The Board agreed that Jenny could start work on this and it will be announced at the AGM.</p>	
Date of next meeting	1700	The next meeting will be held on Sunday June 29th, time to be arranged, at Beltonia.	