

Beltane Fire Society
Board Meeting Minutes 2025-08-18
 Approved on 11 September 2025

Date and Time:	August 18, 2025
Location:	Hybrid - Beltonia / Online
Present:	Present: Robert, C'tri, Neil, Jenny B, Jenny G, Steffie, John Wilson (Blue) Apologies: Zhi Kang

Item	Details	Action on
1. Welcome and general	<p>The meeting was opened by Jenny B, who welcomed everyone and mentioned that the Chair's Report from the AGM is ready to update electronically.</p> <p>Apologies: Zhi Kang</p> <p>Declarations of interest regarding any agenda items There may be a Dol from Jenny Glover about Steward affairs. There may be a Dol from Jenny Bloom about finance.</p> <p>Check ins Everyone gave their check-ins.</p>	
2. Formal Matters	<p>Decision: approval of previous minutes Last month's Minutes are still in draft form, not yet officially approved. Suggestion to clarify venue for Open Meeting (it will be at the Epworth Hall and Well Cafe, 25 Nicolson Square, EH8 9BX - it had been suggested that it might have been at the Central Methodist Halls, Tollcross, which could be a venue for future meetings).</p> <p>Update: Review any urgent action points The proposed Samhuinn 2025 route may be slightly updated (there is not a final route layout at present) and there may be an update on the afterparty venue (not the Caves).</p>	

<p>3. Operations</p>	<p>Blues Quick Update John apologised for not having spoken with certain individuals about feedback from the Volunteer Survey, however, there has been a forthcoming meeting agreed shortly. Blues will share details of each Blue's responsibility for groups shortly.</p> <p>Contractor Quick Update Tom has scheduled GO meetings for August 19th and 26th. These will cover Health and Safety briefings and possibly summaries of the training weekend. Andy (Contractors' Assistant) is now officially on board and Tom is looking forward to training him. Eve (new Site Contractor) is full of enthusiasm. She and Jenny B have talked over her role and what support is available. Simone (Resolutions) is doing well. Quite a lot of progress has been made. Gabbi (Press) is back at work and has requested groups to supply a blurb for the web site - deadline August 28th or earlier.</p> <p>Sysadmin Team Update The Sysadmin team is up and running. There is a new script for Samhuinn which seems to be working. The Blues asked for a whiteboard app, which is now enabled and available for everyone to use with our Google account. TW asked for a demo of the new automation of signup forms (which was subsequently done by RL as a video file in the Team GO drive)</p> <p>Hillisphere Ann Russell was at the GO training weekend; she and Mailis had a chat about her vision and it has been gently narrowed down to a small thing (but with big sculptures), probably in the same style as the beehive. The structure will sit on the hill. BFS members will make lanterns or other sundries. Ann will need support to scope the project appropriately, which Jenny B will do, along with providing some support. Thinking that it's better to do only one thing well, rather than lots of things not so well, it was still decided that there may be a need for fresh stuff at Samhuinn, but not signage. This may be someone everyone can help with.</p> <p>Production Groups. Torchbearers: tentative proposals noted. Tech: Peter Jackson has offered to GO again. Eve, the new onsite contractor may help with Tech admin stuff. Individuals have stepped forward to offer ad-hoc help. Stewards: there are potential GOs, who have met and agreed on a deer based strategy, as suggested by the Cailleach. Likely to include costume, head gear, plus fun and team building games. Photopoint: Daniel Cass and Crow Mackie will be the GOs.</p> <p>Family Samhuinn Ann Russell is very interested in being involved, but a few more people will be needed as part of the team. Jess and Ella are unfortunately not available. Same format and location as usual (Storytelling Centre). Circa £300-400 had been budgeted for the event. Sammi Searle was suggested, perhaps with her singing group?</p> <p>Documents vs Forms This will be discussed at the next meeting. Zhi Kang to ensure it's on the agenda.</p> <p>Formal written warning process Past experience has shown that the process for removing groups and members</p>	<p>Robert</p> <p>Jenny B</p> <p>Zhi Kang</p>
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	<p>needs to be improved. GOs are granted a lot of autonomy to run the group as they see fit but it would be helpful to have a framework for them to use where appropriate. Jenny B and Steffie to explore further.</p> <p>Community Organisers The meetings are infrequent (2 monthly), but are of value. Work is being done by the Community Organisers and, in some ways, meetings are also social events. Jenny G attends the CO meetings to take notes - will be able to help more, if only by providing nice biscuits.</p> <p>Samhuinn: who can be on duty at the Hill on the night / levels of availability during the run-up Jenny B was "on duty" at the Hill/ during the run-up for Beltane, but would like to be part of a group for Samhuinn so will have a bit less capacity to respond to emerging issues quickly. People not able to be involved on the night: Robert will be involved with Tech in some capacity; C'tri will either be drumming or using radios; Jenny G will be GO'ing Stewards. People who may be available: Steffie (possibly on the day and for part of the run up); Neil (though he is away before and after Samhuinn).</p>	Jenny B, Steffie S
Finance and Income Generation	<p>There are some bills in and money in the bank. July has been a very quiet month. However, Samhuinn is likely to make a loss, due to rising prices, though the insurance and public liability insurance are the same as last year.</p>	
6. Community Issues	<p>GDPR Response templates Two templates for different levels of severity Allows for a standard response to breaches, the most common breach being to cc group members instead of bcc-ing Noted, Board welcomed this.</p>	
AOB	<p>Do we want to celebrate the autumn equinox? The Earth Our Mother group, in conjunction with the Cailleach, has arranged a Seed Solstice event at St Augustines Church, George IV Bridge, from 3.30-7pm on Saturday September 20th. All are welcome.</p> <p>Robert's title Robert has changed his Trustee title, to emphasise his Bugle connection. He will still be doing Sysadmin work, but other people eg Stew Wilson are also involved.</p> <p>Disclosure certificate All people GO'ing and Board need to have a valid Disclosure certificate. Details here: https://www.mygov.scot/apply-for-level-1-disclosure Cost £25, which is refundable from Neil, as Treasurer.</p>	
Safeguarding	<p>Board and Blues have been tying up loose ends in the last few weeks from Beltane.</p> <p>In very general terms, there have been mediation meetings with the Sith nan Banrigh group and other relevant parties.</p> <p>Also, there has been some discussion concerning negative comments in the</p>	

	<p>Volunteer Survey about a particular group and the fitness of the then GOs to GO for future festivals.</p> <p>We are keen to give opportunities for growth, learning and development while putting mitigations in place to address the concerns</p>	
Close of meeting	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting is being held on Thursday 11th September 7 for 730pm at Beltonia. An electronic option will be available.</p> <p>(This meeting was originally scheduled for Monday 8th September, but clashes with a funeral, and Board members agreed to move it on that basis).</p>	