

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes: 9 October 2025

Present Jenny Bloom  
Zhi Kang Chua  
Jenny Glover  
C'tri Goudie  
Neil Barton  
Steffie Sutherland  
Robert Lee  
Andy MacLeod  
Tom Watton

Apologies: None

Un-notified  
Absence: None

| MINUTE REF    |   | ACTION BY | ACTION DATE |
|---------------|---|-----------|-------------|
| <b>M25/19</b> | <b>WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>  |           |             |
| 19.1          | All were welcomed. Apologies were noted.  |           |             |
| <b>M25/20</b> | <b>MINUTES</b>  |           |             |
| 20.1          | The Board <b>approved</b> the minutes of 11 September 2025.   |           |             |
| <b>M25/21</b> | <b>ACTION LOG AND MATTERS ARISING</b>   |           |             |
| 21.1          | The Board <b>noted</b> the action log and agreed to close the actions which were proposed as such.  |           |             |
| 21.2          | The Board agreed the dates of the following meetings as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 10 November 2025 - GO Debrief Pre-Meet - for those facilitating the debrief.</li><li>• 17 November 2025 - Board Meeting</li><li>• 24 November 2025 - Samhuinn Board Debrief (tentative)</li></ul>  |           |             |
| <b>M25/22</b> | <b>CONTRACTORS UPDATE</b>   |           |             |
| 22.1          | <u>Events Planning, Operations Group and SSSI Update</u><br>Tom reported good meetings between BFS and the various stakeholders. One major item of discussion was the erosion on Calton Hill and historic flame damage at the bonfire site. In mitigation, protective blankets had been procured, for use in festivals going forward. Noted that full permission for the Samhuinn Bonfire was still to be granted, but the outlook appeared positive.   |           |             |
| 22.2          | <u>Samhuinn Budget Update</u><br>Tom reported that the festival had sold out of the 4160 tickets allocated to the general public. 440 tickets remained ringfenced for the community. Expected income was c. £45k. Festival expenses estimated to be c. £50k, partially due to increases in National Insurance contributions. The Board noted that the forecasted deficit remained within expectations. It was noted the fire blanket purchases would be accounted as CAPEX, depreciated over 10 years. Additionally, it was decided to purchase audio equipment rather than |           |             |

## Public

renting, which would also lead to further savings in future festivals.

- 22.3 In discussion, the Board observed that the cost of running a safe event had increased substantially. However, it was agreed that Samhuinn should be made as accessible as possible. Whilst the festival itself usually ran a deficit, non-financial benefits (intangible heritage, community) remained as crucial. It was agreed that the financial sustainability of Samhuinn would remain under monitoring but no action was needed in the short-term.

### M25/23 SYSADMIN UPDATE

- 23.1 Robert reported that he continued to debug script issues. Had approached C'tri to join the SysAdmin team and had gotten in-principle agreement. Volunteer lists are up to date.

### M25/24 COMMUNITY ORGANISERS UPDATE

- 24.1 The Board noted that the Volunteer Survey for Samhuinn 2025 had been prepared.

### M25/25 AFTER PARTY

- 25.1 The Board noted a proposal from Tom. He proposed the use of the Barnton Bunker in Granton, at an expected total cost of c. £3k, including the cost of transport to the bunker and hiring portable toilets, etc. It was noted that the expected number of participants would be at a limit of the venue's capacity. As such, plus-ones would not be allowed. Risks were also noted - namely that the venue was staffed by temporary staff, and reputational concerns had been raised about the owner of the bunker.

It was noted that the venue was unlicensed. Thus, BFS would assume responsibility for the event and all associated H&S risks. It was noted the event would be covered by insurance. The bunker was also located on public transport routes.

- 25.2 The Board was broadly supportive of the proposal, in-principle. It was agreed to delegate operational planning and decision-making to Tom, who was empowered to call off the afterparty should he feel that the event could not be run safely, at any point. The Board also agreed that members should be aware of the concerns raised, which would be mitigated as best as possible, before purchasing tickets. The Board noted the reputational concerns of the owner, observing that the bunker was now operated by the charitable trust. As such, it was agreed that the payment (in the form of a donation) would explicitly be to the Barnton Bunker Preservation Trust.

It was further agreed for the ticket price to be set at £7.50 per person to contribute towards the donation and transportation costs. The remainder of the cost would be subsidised by BFS.

- 25.3 Following a lengthy discussion, the proposal was **approved** by a majority of the Board. Jenny Glover voted against the proposal.

### M25/26 TORCH HIRE

- 26.1 The Board noted that the torch hire proposal had been dropped due to cost concerns.

### M25/27 DISCUSSION ON REPUTATIONAL RISK DUE TO CALTON HILL EROSION EMERGENCY

## Public

- 27.1 The Board noted ongoing risk mitigation measures, which included working publicly with the Calton Hill Conservation Trust. It was noted that cooperation with the Council on environmental mitigations would continue. Additionally, it was reported that the seeds planted at Beltane had taken and started growing. It was agreed to consider publicising these efforts more widely.

### **M25/28 SEPTEMBER ACCOUNTS**

- 28.1 The discussion focused on the use of the hardship fund, which had increased significantly this festival. It was agreed that clearer guidelines on accessing the fund should be developed, and consideration given to capping the number of individuals who could access the fund.

### **M25/29 COMMUNITY ISSUES**

- 29.1 Contractors departed the meeting at this point.

Redacted: the board approved the proposal to consider two cases closed.

End of meeting