

**Beltane Fire Society**  
**Board Meeting Agenda**  
[BFS Board Rolling Actions Log](#)  
[Change Log and Pain Points](#)

<b>Date and Time:</b>	Thursday 7 May 2026 1930 - 2130
<b>Location:</b>	Beltonia / Google Meet
<b>Invited:</b>	All Board, All Blues, Ops Support
<b>Present:</b>	In person: Zhi-Kang Chua, Jenny Bloom, Sarah Barr, C'tri Goudie, Steffie Sutherland Online: John Wilson, Robert Lee, Tom Watton, Lindsay Hunter, Lisette Bowman
<b>Apologies</b>	Jenny Glover

Item	Time	Notes
<b>FORMAL MATTERS</b>	<b>10 min</b> <b>19:40</b>	
Welcome, check ins and apologies		Jenny Glover has retired from the Board of Trustees, we thank her for her service. All future "Jenny" entries are now unambiguous.
<a href="#">Minutes</a>	<b>19:35</b>	Approved as an accurate record
<a href="#">Action Log and Matters Arising</a>	<b>19:36</b>	JB to update action log with tasks from last month
Set date for next board meeting	<b>19:39</b>	–
Set date for contractor / blues/ board debrief		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21st for Board &amp; Blues &amp; Contractor debrief, SS and LB won't be there, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ LB is very happy with the festival and will deliver written notes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• GO Selection debrief to be worked in</li> </ul>
Set date for AGM	<b>19:50</b>	<p><b>AGM date:</b> 27th/28th of June, preferring the 28th ZK to take point on venue hunting - something the size of the big Quaker Meeting House room is ideal. Somewhere central, no contentious topics anticipated that might swell the numbers.</p> <p>There is discussion surrounding previous AGMs that have been very well attended, and all agree that it's unlikely anything as contentious as "moving Beltane to the Saturday" is going to be proposed.</p>
<b>OPERATIONS</b>		

Blues Update	19:52 10 min	<p>Blues have been managing discussion with concerned GOs / volunteers after a pair of allergic reactions, during the 2nd walkthrough, and at the afterparty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Allergen is not known to the impacted volunteer</li> <li>● Origin for walkthrough instance appears to have been through burning of a material during saining</li> <li>● Mitigation steps suggested after the 2nd walkthrough were accepted as sufficient by the GOs &amp; Volunteer in question. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Suspected materials were not burned, present on the hill, or even in the owner's car.</li> <li>○ PPE was recommended for the volunteer.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● The volunteer sought hospital treatment during another reaction during the afterparty, all mitigations (except PPE) appear observed.</li> </ul> <p><b>JB - to sync with SB / Blue Team about taking point on this.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● there is general lamentation about it being less than 24hours after the festival before something happened</li> </ul> <p>No other <i>major</i> issues; there was some discussion with a group about a fire sculpture that could have been taken to depict a religious symbol.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The board recognises that whilst it was definitely from a place of honouring the symbol in question, it could easily be taken out of context or misunderstood and we wish to avoid that. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ TW - Big love to Becky for taking point on that managing that.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● JW mentions that Selkie Soundsphere had a much better time of things and were very flexible to meet our requirements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ There is broad agreement that the conch in Selkie Soundsphere was incredible]</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>SB &amp; JW - exits to go vote in today's government elections.</p>
Contractors Update	20:15	<p>Starting with TW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Festival: No burning issues, festival was very nice, more detail at the debrief. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Everything from the festival that's meant to be returned has been returned.</li> <li>○ We've had invoices from security contractors.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● General ops side:</li> <li>● we've had an invite from the Old Royal Highschool, to use their offices for the Calton Hill stakeholders meeting, that I'm happy to represent us at that. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Also possible collaboration opportunities as a venue. They won't be ready for Beltane but possibly afterwards.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Beltonia warehouse project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential site in Sighthill, keeping our eye on that for developments</li> <li>○ Had a few viewings for other warehouses, but some have been worse than our current place.</li> <li>○ Current factors are due to inspect the current place, but that's slow moving.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Samhuinn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We do have a penciled booking for Calton Hill for Samhuinn</li> <li>○ a funding application for Samhuinn is in, should hear in the next fortnight.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>—</p> <p>Moving on to LB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Things are pretty good on this end, pre-dusk quest went well; some got more views than others.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hope to hand it on to someone else for next year; fun project.</li> <li>● Family Beltane - we have heard from one of the facepainters, it was a nice and calm event, which we're glad about. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SS also spoke to someone else involved, they said it went well.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Generally happy with how the Saining and Wishing Tree projects went.</li> </ul> <p>—</p> <p>Update from AM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● had a fairly quiet festival as security liaison. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Had a couple of minor security incidents, someone got burned by the bonfire.</li> <li>○ TW - we're waiting for written report on that one. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Superficial burn - ember managed to trick-shot down the witnesses's clothes.</li> <li>■ First Aid team didn't have to do much.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>—</p> <p>There is a question about press difficulties</p> <p>ZK - Addresses questions surrounding. On the north facing (charge) slope there was a photographer on the slope in an inappropriate location. He refused to leave, but was eventually browbeaten by Blues and a Photopoint GO;</p> <p>Furthermore: Two photographers causing problems at charge slope had press passes and won't be invited back.</p> <p>[there is discussion of the specifics and normalcies of what areas are fenced off from the public.]</p> <p>JB - I'd like to chat with those going to be at the GO debrief, I'd like to compare notes and prepare the table topics in advance to accommodate.</p>
SysAdmin Team Update	20:30	<p>RL gives a sysadmin update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Meetings with JB to talk about the resolutions@ email address and how that can be safely transitioned without compromising secrecy, all going well.</li> <li>● RL made a GDPR breach with a reply-all by accident, not reportable.</li> <li>● We've had some issues with the image hosting for photopoint running slowly. Nothing as bad as last time, but not as easy to fix.</li> <li>● Haven't yet removed people whose membership expired.</li> <li>● RL - planning on stepping down as team-lead over summer, and I think it's a good idea to get a 3rd assistant.</li> </ul> <p>JB - agree, I think it would be good to advertise trusteeship in the next few weeks.</p>
Volunteer Survey Team Assemble	20:34	<p>SS - We've had 4 people so far offer to help, more welcome. A willingness to answer any questions that come out of the survey is always appreciated.</p>
GO Debrief planning		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● JB arranges a call with those going to be at the debrief to plan for it</li> <li>● The topic of the fire sculpture change is to be handled separately with the relevant GOs, before the debrief. "A prebrief to the debrief"</li> <li>● JB summarises: generally, we want to avoid setting fire to religious symbols, even when it's done lovingly from a place of empowerment; too easy to be taken out of context</li> </ul>

Safeguarding Officer changes	20:41	<p>The resignation of Simone Last as Safeguarding &amp; Resolutions officer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● a few members have found out about this informally, and are unhappy.</li> <li>● We didn't want to make an announcement until after we'd spoken with Simone and had a handover meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sharing incorrect information is worse than waiting.</li> <li>○ Handover meeting has happened, Simone L is writing a statement to be circulated with the next monthly newsletter (Bugle)</li> </ul> </li> <li>● It was relayed to GOs who were asked to pass it on, we suspect based on survey responses so far, that this has been missed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A wider announcement was to follow after the festival, and is in progress above.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Simone Last is doing much better now, and we wish her well.</li> </ul>
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>		
Date of Board+Blue+Contractor Debrief		<b>Done, above</b>
AGM Planning	20:43	<p>JB sets out the tasks that needs done</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Advertising the AGM</li> <li>● Request for motions</li> <li>● Instructions on how to apply to be a trustee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We would like to advertise this.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>RL - the sign-in process we did last time worked well, a pair of COs with a truncated version of the membership rolls.</p> <p>JB on policy changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● JB had some changes to policy / the AoA to reflect/ allow our desired best practice. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Unclear if that will be possible: JB to have a clear idea by the end of this week.</li> <li>○ ZK offered to assist in that, rather than the volunteer survey</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>A brief diversion to discuss the Samhuinn Open Meeting:</p> <p>General agreement to aim for the first weekend of September, to avoid the Fringe Festival collisions, and let our volunteers who work in events attend.</p>
–BRIEF BREAK–		<p>Candlemakers lore. Where did our standing invitation for them to participate, originate from?</p> <p>One of the people who restarted the candlemakers guild 20 odd years ago, was a language expert studying with Margaret Bennet and Hamish ???, back when they were starting Beltane with Angus 40~ years ago. They offered us a huge amount of wax (transformed into mushroom lamps) a while ago, and they've been welcome ever since, old friends really, with no current connections inside the society beyond their regular space in the procession.</p>

Belther?		<p>The need for a Blether is discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited trustee energy to organise</li> <li>• No clear topics yet identified</li> </ul>
Beltonia ongoing search	21:03	<p>Copy of notes from the contractors update section for convenience:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beltonia warehouse project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Potential site in Sighthill, keeping our eye on that for developments</li> <li>○ Had a few viewings for other warehouses, but some have been worse than our current place.</li> <li>○ Current factors are due to inspect the current place, but that's slow moving.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>–</p> <p>Finances:</p> <p>NB - Triodos are willing to offer us loans of £100k+, with a 30% deposit. They'll happily work with us as a charity and our use case is well within what they offer. Depending on the property, they might need guarantees; kinda like a normal mortgage - depends on the mortgage-to-value.</p> <p>NB - They didn't mention the term, and I'll follow up on that.</p> <p>TW - probably 25 years or so; depends on the building.</p>
<b>FINANCE &amp; INCOME GENERATION</b>		<p><u><a href="#">April accounts</a></u></p> <p>NB provides an update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The April update doesn't factor in most of the Beltane expenses yet, which had not yet come in.</li> <li>• The only interesting part is that our core overheads are down because Simone L has less with us than usual because of her resignation.</li> <li>• The festival itself made £140k after commission, pre-gift-aid.</li> <li>• income from traders is not yet received</li> <li>• Comparing with TW's budget, we should be looking at a 57k surplus from Beltane. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Based on last year's overhead costs, we need a surplus of 40k to keep the lights on.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>JB talks about our year-round projected costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We had a sell out of the smaller Samhuinn last year; with max ticketing from 2 years; we need to look at whether the ticketing is covering those events plus our overheads. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ At present, we're running at a loss per year, even whilst selling out.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Currently Calton Hill is our best venue of choice following the wishes of the community expressed in the blether.</li> <li>• <b>CG to reread the blether notes</b></li> <li>• we're in the nice week where we have lots of money. We'll know by the 21st, a lot of the invoices should be in by then, definitely by the next board meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>COMMUNITY ISSUES</b>	20:50	<p>JB gives an update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short on people - we're continuing to run safeguarding team as best we can, but there are some cases that were being dealt with confidentially by Simone.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All of those have been handed over to <i>somebody</i>, the least conflicted person. Some have had to be paused; they're not suitable to be handled by the available team members.</li> <li>● We're being transparent with those involved, and those who are on pause will, or do, know why.</li> <li>● We have two members who help with policy, but not casework; Giulia and Kat are available for safeguarding policy chat.</li> <li>● ZK - I'd potentially be up for Safeguarding after the AGM</li> </ul>
<b>AOB</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● NB was speaking to Lorraine P, asking how she found the Beltane run up in a child-friendly sense. She says not much has improved. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ JB - has had conversations with her, but all real solutions require someone ongoingly to organise them, and she's not in a position to do that because she's a single mum with a baby.</li> <li>○ We need a community member who's invested in this topic to take ownership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Where we can we've made small changes, and it's usually but not always improved things slightly.</li> <li>■ Her experience after we asked people to think about things in advance, was that more people turned her away, which is not ideal.</li> <li>■ She also has a broken foot at the moment.</li> <li>■ [The board offer her well wishes and a speedy recovery]</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● NB - Secondly, had an email from Alex A, who is studying bookkeeping, and is wondering if they could assist the treasurer without being a full trustee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CG - the model we use with the Sysadmin team works very well, Trustee team lead &amp; Community Organisers.</li> <li>○ [Board is in favour of this]</li> <li>○ <b>NB to take that forward and provide updates</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Next board meeting is on the 9th of June</p>
<b>CLOSE OF MEETING</b>		