

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

- BCT -

Minute of BCT's First AGM

Finzean Hall, 10th February 1999

Ordinary Members Present:-

Anke Addy, Angela Bolt, Rita Callander, Robin Callander, Billy Christie, Elsie Christie, Jimmy Christie, Neil Christie, William Christie, Hugh Cochran, Louise Counsell, Dorothy Dinnie, Gordon Dinnie, Robert Dinnie, Angus Farquharson, Alison Farquharson, Andrew Farquharson, Kate Farquharson, Joyce Ford, Merry Ford, John Forster, Sandra Forster, Leslie George, Evelyn Hall, Ken Hall, Sheila Harper, Ron Harper, Guy Haslam, Jack Holt, Martin Hayward, Norman Kellas, Dale Kitching, Jonathan Kitching, Patricia Jay, Dave Latham, Malcolm Littlejohn, Katherine Lee, Alasdair McCormach, Liz McCormach, Neil McCormach, Liz Moyes, Stan Moyes, Richard Newton, Malcolm Nicol, Helen Nicol, Peter Nicol, Mollie Pastuszko, Robert Paterson, Richard Rogers, Donald Silcock, Ken Taylor, Jimmy Valentine, Margaret Young;

1. Welcome

Jack Holt, Chairman of the Interim Board, welcomed everyone to BCT's first AGM, highlighting the historic nature of the occasion and acknowledging the good turn-out despite the snowy conditions. JH introduced the other Interim Trustees, Robert Dinnie, Alison Farquharson and Angus Farquharson and BCT's Secretary/Manager, Robin Callander.

2. Apologies

Apologies were recorded from Ben Addy, Tom Addy, John Addy, Ian Alcock, Rae Barton, Andrew Cochran, Beverly Cochran, Andrew Counsell, David Ford, Jim Gordon, Christina Nicol, Chris Rogers, Ann Silcock, Norman Young

3. Report of Interim Board

The Chairman introduced an illustrated presentation by Robin Callander. This explained the reasons for establishing BCT, the agreements BCT has secured over the Forest of Birse Community, BCT's Millennium Forest Project, BCT's Project 2000 and the Interim Board's other proposals for how BCT's involvements could be developed to promote the common good of the inhabitants of Birse parish and deliver wider public benefits. In discussion afterwards, Billy Christie, as Chairman of Finzean Community Association, welcomed the establishment of BCT and looked forward to close working between FCA and BCT. RC confirmed the crucial importance to BCT of its relationships with the local community associations and confirmed that BCT would be inviting representatives from them to BCT Board meetings.

4. Elections

The Chairman explained how BCT's Articles allowed for 4 Trustees elected by the ordinary membership, as defined by the Electoral Registers for the parish, 1 Trustee appointed by Alison Farquharson and two who could be co-opted.

(a) Elected Trustees

The Chairman reported that 4 nominations had been received for the 4 vacancies for elected Trustees. Being one of the nominees, the Chairman asked Angus Farquharson to read out the nominations:-

Jack Holt	proposed by Norman Young, seconded by Ron Harper
Robert Dinnie	proposed by Fred Mackie, seconded by Maureen Littlejohn
Ken Hall	proposed by John Addy, seconded by Dave Latham
Liz McCormach	proposed by Dr. Mary Taylor, seconded by Liz Moyes

The election of these four nominees was unanimously approved by the meeting. The Chairman noted the spread of representation on the new Board across the whole parish and, while acknowledging the supremacy of democratic procedures, hope that this was a feature that might be maintained in years to come.

(b) Appointed Trustee

The Chairman reported that Alison Farquharson was appointing herself for the coming year. He explained the background to Alison's power of appointment and reported Alison's wish that this should be a transitional arrangement, with all 5 Trustees elected by all the ordinary membership in future.

5. Annual Subscription for Associate Members

The Chairman reminded those present that the ordinary members of BCT paid no subscription. He explained how anyone else could join BCT as an associate member at a subscription rate to be determined and how building up the associate membership would be an important part of supporting BCT's work. He proposed that the associate members subscription rate should initially be set at £20 (£25 overseas) per address/household for 12 months from BCT's receipt of the subscription. This was unanimously approved by the meeting. Associate members would receive two newsletters in exchange for their year's subscription, but there was recognition that BCT would need to develop an attractive package for associate members. There was also agreement to consider a corporate associated member subscription rate in the future.

6. Appointment of Honorary Patron

The Chairman explained the position of Honorary Patron under BCT's Articles and proposed the appointment of Angus Farquharson as Honorary Patron for the next two years. The Chairman noted Angus's position as Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire and that he has held many other public appointments. The Chairman also paid tribute to Angus's crucial contribution to the successful establishment of BCT and highlighted how particularly helpful it could be to have Angus as Honorary Patron during BCT's early years. The appointment of Angus Farquharson as Honorary Patron for 2 years was unanimously approved by the meeting.

7. Statement of Period of Accounts

The Chairman reported that BCT's formal accounts would start from Incorporation last August and that the Interim Board had adopted the conventional financial year to 31st March. To provide a reasonable period of accounts, BCT's first set of accounts would therefore be to 31st March 2000. The accounts would need to be audited before the next AGM, which had to be held within 15 months of this first AGM. The next AGM would therefore be held in late April / early May 2000.

8. Appointment of Auditor

The Chairman proposed that Derek Edge of Edge & Co. be appointed as auditor and this was unanimously approved by the meeting. The Chairman also acknowledged the voluntary help of Callum Wilson and John Shearer (both of Price Waterhouse Coopers), who had given some initial advice on BCT's tax position including VAT.

9. Any Other Business

The Chairman drew attention to the many people, both in the parish and further afield, including those in various organisations, who had helped BCT to reach this point. He proposed a vote of thanks to all these people and this was warmly endorsed by the meeting.