

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

- BCT -

Minute of BCT's Second AGM

Ballogie Hall, 12th April 2000

Ordinary Members Present: John & Anke Addy, Ian Alcock, Rae Barton, Pam Baxter, Alison Bell, Robin & Rita Callander, Paul Chapman, Billy Christie, Victor Clements, Louise Counsell, Robert & Dorothy Dinnie, Sally Duthie, Andrew & Kate Farquharson, Angus & Alison Farquharson, Joyce Ford, John & Sandra Forster, Leslie George, Jim Gordon, Lynne Gordon, Doug & Betty Gray, Ken & Evelyn Hall, Ron & Sheila Harper, Guy Haslam, Susan Hayward, Jack Holt, Tricia Jay, Catherine Knight, Dave Latham, Moira Laing, Andrea Littlejohn, Liz McConnach, Neil McConnach, Geraldine McGowan, James Mortimer, Stanley & Elizabeth Moyes, Emily Moyes, Robert Naylor, Andrew & Julie Nicol, Mollie Pastuzzko, Geoff Phillips, Peter Ross, Stephen Ross, Donald & Anne Silcock, Joanna Strachan, Jimmy Valentine, Andrew Wright, Norman & Peggy Young; *Associate Members Present:* Eileen & Bill Bailey, Ronald & Elizabeth Birse, Hugh Cochran, Alistair Macrae (Ritson Smith), Kevin Peace (Forest Enterprise)

1. Welcome

Rev. Jack Holt, BCT Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting, acknowledged the good turnout despite the cold, wet weather and introduced BCT's other Trustees: Robert Dinnie, Alison Farquharson, Ken Hall & Liz McConnach. He asked for any apologies to add to those already received. Apologies were noted from Douglas Boyle, Jill Gordon, Malcolm Nicol & Ken Taylor.

2. Chairman's Report & Company Accounts

The Chairman started his formal report for the period from incorporation to 31st December 2000 by acknowledging the able assistance he had received from his fellow Trustees. He reported that the period had been an extremely challenging one, during which the Trust had had to achieve a great deal in a relatively short time and also to overcome many difficulties. In reporting that the Trust had been very successful during the period, he paid tribute to the many people whose help and support had enabled the Trust to achieve this. He described the steps the Board had taken to keep members informed about the Trust's projects. In turning to the accounts, he explained the changes in the reporting period and auditors from those agreed at the first AGM. He then outlined the main sources of income and items of expenditure in the accounts. He noted that c.98% of the income had come from outwith the parish and that c.50% had been spent locally. He stated that the Board wished to increase that expenditure from 50% and ensure a wider spread of it within the parish, noting that the presentation to follow would elaborate on the Board's policies and strategies. He described the first accounts as a key milestone in the establishment of the Trust, but stressed that it was still very new and far from fully formed. In conclusion, he hoped that the membership would agree that the Trust had demonstrated its capacity to secure significant income and deliver a wide range of practical benefits to the community.

In discussion of the accounts, a number of points were clarified including: the difference between the contingent liability and the sums accrued; the grant income carried forward; the various figures on accountancy fees; & the likely uptake of BCT's Millennium Forest grant. The Chairman also confirmed that, now the Board had been through one set of formal company accounts, next year a fuller and more user friendly explanation would be provided. The Chairman proposed the approval of the accounts as circulated and this was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

3. Auditors

The Chairman commended Ritson Smith's work on the Trust's first set of Accounts and their support for BCT, as reflected in the attendance at the meeting of Alistair Macrae of Ritson Smith

and by the company becoming an associated member. He proposed that Ritson Smith be appointed as auditors for 2000 and that the auditor's fee should be such as the Board may decide in due course. Both these proposals were approved unanimously by the meeting.

4. Subscriptions

The Chairman outlined the importance of Associate Members to the Trust's work and reported that the Trust hoped to increase their number from the current 50 to around 250 over the next couple of years, while noting the need to develop an attractive package to encourage people to join. He proposed that the current twelve month subscription levels of £20 within the UK and £25 overseas should be continued for another year. This proposal was unanimously approved by the meeting.

5. Election of Trustee

The Chairman recalled that the Trust had four elected Trustees and one appointed by Alison Farquharson, under what is potentially a transitional arrangements reported at the first AGM. He also noted that the Board had the power, which it had not exercised to date, to co-opt two Trustees.

The Chairman explained that, in line with the requirement in the Trust's constitution for at least one trustee to be elected each year, Liz McConnach had volunteered to stand down. He reported that one nomination had been received - Peggy Young and Anke Addy had proposed Joanna Strachan. He therefore declared Joanna Strachan duly elected as a Trustee of BCT. He paid tribute to Liz's contribution to the Board during its challenging initial period and also welcomed Joanna to the Board, noting the interests and skills she would bring to its work.

After the interval, Louise Counsell, Emily & Kirsty Moyes, Ailidh Callander, Rhona Gordon & Rio Riddell, played "The Gathering at Corsedarder Stone" on the fiddle.

6. Manager's Presentation

Robin Callander, the Trust's Manager, gave an illustrated presentation about the Trust entitled "*Working on Behalf of the Community - The Challenges and Opportunities for BCT as a local Community Business*". He started by recalling the reasons BCT was established and by providing an update on progress with its various projects since the period covered by the Chairman's Report. He then moved on to "BCT as the Project", explaining the overall operation and development of the Trust. He outlined the Trust's approaches to providing information, local consultation, the participation of members and the accountability of the Trust to its members. He ended by looking to the future in terms of projects, funding and support, both from members and outside bodies.

In discussion, a number of points were raised including: the relationship between BCT and the parish's community associations; the balances between parish wide projects and the interests of each of the associations; co-operation with Mid Deeside Ltd and other local partnerships; the establishment of advisory groups for the mills and other BCT projects; & sources of advice for the Trust's interests in capercaillie conservation.

7. Closing Remarks

The Chairman thank all those that who had helped with the meeting and in conclusion, hoped that the membership would continue to support and guide the Trust so that it could deliver its full potential for the community. Then, Angus Farquharson, Patron, in closing the meeting, paid tribute to all that had been achieved, noting what a long way the Trust had come since its first AGM.