

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

-BCT-

Minute of BCT's Third AGM

18th April 2001

Finzean Hall,

Ordinary Members Present: John & Anke Addy, Ian & Diana Alcock, Mary Armour, Rosaleen Begg, Aiden & Alison Bell, Jacqui Blackwood, Sophia Bond, Robin & Rita Callander, Paul Chapman, Billy Christie, Louise Counsell, Graham Davidson, Robert & Dorothy Dinnie, David & Annie Duncan, Sue Evett, Angus & Alison Farquharson, Andrew & Kate Farquharson, Sheila Farquharson-Lang, John & Sandra Forster, Tricia Frampton-Heldman, Jim & Gillian Gordon, Douglas & Elizabeth Gray, Vera Greensmyth, Ken & Evelyn Hall, Sheila Harper, Guy & Jean Haslam, Jack & Sandra Holt, Doreen Ironside, Patricia Jay, Martin Johnson, Jonathan Kitching, Andrea Littlejohn, Neil McConnell, Geraldine McGowan, Jill MacGregor, Frieda Morrison, James Mortimer, Stan & Liz Moyes, Robert Naylor, Malcolm Nicol, Julie Nicol, Mollie Pastuszko, Geoff Phillips, Mike Rumbles MSP, Donald Silcock, Joanna Strachan, Jack & Mary Taylor, Pam & Ken Taylor, James Valentine, Maggie Wilkinson, Jean Williams, Peggy Young; *Associate Members Present:* Alison Ewan, Thomas Hall, Alison Harper, Alistair & Patricia Macrae (Ritson Smith), Kevin Peace (Forest Enterprise), Jim & Jean Shirer, Eric Sinclair, Robin Webster; *In attendance:* Councillor Peter Argyle, Isla Callander & Rio Riddell (Finzean Forest Photographics), Calum Bell, Ailidh Callander, Corrie Callander:

1. Welcome

Rev. Jack Holt, BCT Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He acknowledged the good turnout despite the snowy weather and other local events, particularly the re-scheduled show at the Deeside Community Centre to which a significant number of local members were committed. He asked for any apologies to add to the twenty-four already received and recorded. Additional apologies were noted from Jim & Aileen Buchan, George Christie, Charles Insch, Robert & Hazel Knorr, Kathleen Moir, Andrew Nicol, Sarah Wright and Norman Young.

The Chairman, noting that the year to be reported on at the meeting had started with the Dedication of the Birse Millennium Stone on 1st January 2000, introduced Dr. Jack Taylor to play the pipe tune specially composed for that occasion, 'The Gathering at Corsedarder'.

2. Formal Business

2.1 Minutes of the Second AGM on 12th April 2000

The Chairman introduced the minutes of the last AGM, which were distributed at the meeting. There being no questions or comments, the Chairman proposed the approval of the Minutes and this was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

2.2 Chairman's Report on the Year to 31st December 2000

The Chairman introduced his Report on 2000, which had been circulated previously. There being no questions or comments, the Chairman proposed the approval of the Report and this was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

2.3 Company Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2000

The Chairman introduced the Accounts and the Financial Report, both of which had been circulated previously. Following explanation of the income and expenditure on books and of the reduction in administration costs, the Chairman proposed the approval of the Accounts and this was unanimously agreed by the meeting. The meeting also unanimously endorsed the extent of the Accounts distributed to Members in advance of the AGM and the format of the accompanying Financial Report.

2.4 Appointment of Auditors & Fixing of Auditor's Remuneration

The Chairman commended Ritson Smith's work on BCT's Accounts. He proposed that Ritson Smith be appointed as auditors for 2001 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.

2.5 Fixing of Annual Subscription for Associate Members

The Chairman reported that the Trust now had nearly 80 Associate Members. He paid tribute to the valuable support they provide to the Trust's work and hoped that those present would encourage more to join. He proposed that the current subscription levels of £20 within the UK and £25 overseas should be continued for another year. This proposal was unanimously approved by the meeting.

2.6 Special Resolution to Amended BCT's Memorandum & Articles

The Chairman explained that the Resolution was to give effect to Mrs. Alison Farquharson's wish to renounce the right of her and her successors as holders of the title to the Barony of Finzean to appoint one of BCT's Trustees and to replace that by increasing the number of Trustees elected by the Members from four to five. He outlined the background to the right, the importance of making the Trust fully democratic and paid tribute the invaluable contribution Alison Farquharson and her family had made to the establishment and success of the Trust. He read out the Resolution that "(a) Articles 34(b)(ii) and 35(b) be deleted; & (b) Article 34(b)(i) be amended to state "The Ordinary Members of the Trust may elect up to five Trustees." The resolution was proposed by Alison Farquharson, seconded by Robert Dinnie and unanimously approved by the meeting.

2.7 Election of Trustees

The Chairman reported that Alison Farquharson and Ken Hall were standing down as Trustees and paid tribute to the important contribution each had made to the Trust's work. The Chairman reported that two nominations had been received:- Guy Haslam, proposed by Billy Christie and John Forster, and Pam Taylor, proposed by Gordon Dinnie and Dorothy Dinnie. He therefore declared Guy Haslam and Pam Taylor duly elected as Trustees of BCT.

The Chairman then introduced David Duncan to recite "The Muckle Spate of Twenty Nine".

3. Discussion of BCT's Plans for the Coming Years

The Chairman introduced the discussion, outlining the main elements in BCT's new Strategic Plan and the importance to BCT of developing an office in the Finzean Old School buildings. In discussion, a number of points were raised including: the existing and potential use of students by BCT, the scope to claim gift aid on subscriptions, the potential of the local history archive in the Old School, the balance of paid and voluntary work for BCT, the idea of a 'junior BCT' for the younger residents not on the Electoral Registers, the provision of training activities by BCT for residents, and developments in the relationship between BCT and the Community Associations. Representatives of Ballogie and Birse Associations highlighted the value they put on their relationships with BCT, while the meeting unanimously supported the proposal that next year's AGM should continue to develop the format of formal business, exhibition and local performances.

The Chairman then introduced Frieda Morrison to tell "The Warlock of Glen Dye".

4. Closing Remarks

The Trust's Patron, Angus Farquharson, paid tribute to all that has been achieved by the Trust in its first two years and commended the Trustees and all the others who had contributed to that. In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked all those who had helped with the meeting and all those who had attended and hoped that the membership would continue to support and guide the Trust in its work.