

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minute of BCT's Fourth AGM 24th April 2002 Ballogie Hall

Ordinary Members Present: Mary Armour, Rosaleen Begg, Aiden & Alison Bell, Julie Bibby, Jacqui Blackwood, Robin & Sophia Bond, Robin & Rita Callander, Paul Chapman, George Christie, Billy Christie, Louise Counsell, Victor Clements, Gordon & Dorothy Dinnie, Robert & Dorothy Dinnie, David & Annie Duncan, Andrew & Kate Farquharson, Angus & Alison Farquharson, John & Rosemary Forbes, John & Sandra Forster, Tricia Frampton-Heldman, Helle Garner, Jim & Gillian Gordon, Lynne Gordon, Douglas & Elizabeth Gray, Sarah Harker, Guy & Jean Haslam, Ken & Evelyn Hall, Ian Hector, John Hector, Wendy Hector, Jack & Sandra Holt, Moira Keith, Norman Kellas, David Latham, Moira Laing, Andrea Littlejohn, Elizabeth McConnach, Neil & Meg McConnach, Fiona MacKenzie, Frieda Morrison, Stan & Liz Moyes, Robert Naylor, Andrew Nicol, Malcolm Nicol, Rick & Lucy Paul, Jill Phillips, Donald Silcock, Elizabeth Stevenson, Alexander Strachan, Joanna Strachan, Pam Taylor, Sheila Thow, Sarah Wright, Peggy Young; *Association Members Present:* Les Allan (Aberdeenshire Council), Bill & Eileen Bailey, Ronald & Elizabeth Birse, William Downie, Thomas Hall, Alison Harper, Sandy & Freda Hay, David Jenkins, Prue King, Mary Levie, Alistair & Mary McGregor, Frank & Betty Robbie, Jim & Jean Shirer *In Attendance:* Sheena Blackhall, Kathleen McConnach, Catriona McAulay, Vicky Bibby, Katie & Laura Boyle, Ailidh, Isla & Corrie Callander, Kirsty Moyes.

1. Welcome

The Reverend Jack Holt, BCT Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting. He acknowledged the good turn out and asked for any apologies to add to the 36 already received and recorded. Additional apologies were noted from Jill McGregor, Sheila & Ron Harper, Cath Knight, Norman Young, Christina Nicol and Julie, Lucy & Helen Nicol.

The Chairman then introduced Frieda Morrison & Alison Bell to perform "Owre the Water to Charlie".

2. Formal Business of the AGM

2.1 Minutes of the Third AGM on 18th April 2001

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 2001

The Chairman introduced his Report on 2001, which had been circulated previously. There being no questions or comments, the Chairman proposed the approval of the Minutes and this was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

2.3 Company Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2001

The Chairman introduced the Annual Accounts and Financial Report for 2001, both of which had been circulated previously. There being no questions or comments, the Chairman proposed the approval of the Minutes and this was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

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 re-appointed as auditors for 2002 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 just over 100 Associate Members. He paid tribute to the valuable support they provided to the Trust's work. He noted that the Trust planned to produce a leaflet to attract new Associate Members and also asked those present to 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 approved unanimously by the meeting.

2.6 Election of Trustees

The Vice Chairman, Robert Dinnie, paid tribute to Joanna Strachan and Jack Holt as the Trustees that were standing down. He described in particular Jack Holt's immense contribution to the success of the Trust and presented him with a framed photograph of Corsedardar on behalf of the membership. The Chairman, after acknowledging the tribute and gift, reported that two nominations had been received: Lynne Gordon, proposed by Katie Gordon and Stuart Gordon, and Jim Gordon, proposed by Neil McConnach and Malcolm Nicol. He therefore declared Lynne Gordon and Jim Gordon duly elected as Trustees of BCT and introduced them to the meeting, noting that they were unrelated and outlining the skills and interests each would bring to their role as a BCT Trustee.

2.7 Appointment of Honorary Patron

The Chairman reported that Angus Farquharson's three year term as Honorary Patron ended at the meeting and paid rich tribute to the unique and invaluable contribution that he had made to the Trust from its very beginning. After Angus Farquharson had acknowledged the tribute, the Chairman proposed the distinguished local member Lord Wilson of Tillyorn as Honorary Patron for the next three years and this appointment was approved unanimously by the meeting.

The Chairman then introduced David Duncan to recite "The New Tractor".

3. Discussion Session

The Chairman introduced the Session, which covered three topics:-

- (i) John Forster set out the potential benefits to the Trust of building up a core of volunteers to help with its projects and asked that the Trustees give this further consideration.
- (ii) The Trust's Manager, Robin Callander, then described BCT's proposals to buy Finzean Old School and Slewdrum Forest and these were unanimously endorsed by the meeting.
- (iii) The Chairman declared an interest in this item about the future of Birse Church and Church Hall and handed over the chair to BCT Trustee Guy Haslam. BCT's Manager then made a presentation about Birse Church, Church Hall and parking area. He outlined the background to the forthcoming sale of these properties, their importance to the community, the mandate that Birse & Ballogie Community Council had received to explore a community based option to safeguard the future of the properties and the option that had been agreed at a meeting on 8th April of representatives of the parish's three Community Associations, two Community Councils, BCT and a proposed Ecumenical Trust for the Church. The proposal that BCT should try to become the owner of all three properties, with the use of the Church taken on by the proposed Ecumenical Trust and the use of the Hall as a village hall taken on by the Birse Area Community Association (BACA), was supported by statements from the Chairmen of the Ecumenical Trust Steering group and BACA respectively. BCT's Manager also highlighted the need for local discussions to avoid potential conflicts between the parties involved. After questions and discussion, the proposal was endorsed without dissent by the meeting.

The Chairman then introduced Sheena Blackhall to recite some of her poems from Birse.

4. Closing Remarks

The Chairman recalled the background to his initial involvement with the Trust, described how privileged he felt to have been so directly involved with it, paid tribute to all those that had helped the Trust, noting the special contribution of Robin Callander as its Manager, and commended the vision and spirit of the community that had supported it. He ended his personal statement by encouraging the Trust to note down all the special 'stories' from its development so far and expressed his belief that, even given its success to date, the true potential of BCT as a means of promoting the common good of the inhabitants of Birse will become more fully realised in the longer term. The Trust's Patron, Angus Farquharson, then congratulated the Trust on all its achievements in such a short time, thanked everyone for attending the meeting and all those who had made it such an excellent and enjoyable occasion. In closing the meeting, the Chairman hoped that the membership would continue to support the Trust in all its work.