

# BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

## Minutes of BCT's Sixth AGM

23<sup>rd</sup> June 2004

Ballogie Hall

### Present

*Ordinary Members:* John & Anke Addy, Jane Belchamber, Alan & Jane Bennett, Robin & Rita Callander, George & Mary Christie, Elizabeth Clarke, David & Annie Duncan, Dawn Duncan, Sidney & Aileen Ellis, Victor Clements, Robert & Dorothy Dinnie, Gordon & Dorothy Dinnie, Andrew Farquharson, Angus & Alison Farquharson, Catriona Farquharson, John & Rosemary Forbes, Sandra Forster, Tricia Frampton-Heldman, Jim & Gillian Gordon, Lynne Gordon, Doug & Elizabeth Gray, Guy Haslam, Ronnie & Sheila Harper, Ian Hector, Jack Holt, Dave Latham, Alan Lawson, Liz McConnach, Neil McConnach, Fiona MacKenzie, Stan & Elizabeth Moyes, Andrew & Julie Nicol, Malcolm Nicol, Brian Page, Rick Paul, Alastair Pout, Hector Riddell, Patricia Scales, Alan & Mel Shand, Pam & Ken Taylor, Andrew Walker, Jackie White, Richard Wright, Sarah Wright, Peggy Young; (62)

*Associate Members:* Bill & Eileen Bailey, Tom Carter, Duncan Coutts, Fiona Grant, Tom Hall, Mary Hartnoll, Patrick Heron, David Jenkins, Ian Kinniburgh, Kevin Peace, Colonel Alastair Rose, Jim & Jean Shirer, Eric Sinclair, Lize Strachan; (16)

*In attendance:* Councillor Peter Argyle, Isobel Sutherland (Anderson Anderson Brown); (2)

### Apologies

*Ordinary Members:* Diana & Ian Alcock, Alison & Aiden Bell, Billy Christie, Donald Farquharson, John Forster, Ken & Evelyn Hall, Jean Haslam, Audrey Litterick, Jill MacGregor, Colonel John Nicol, Lucy Nicol, Robert Scales, Joanna Strachan, Kevin Strachan, Jimmy Valentine, Lord David Wilson, Mrs Williamson, Mark White, Malcolm Wright, Rupert Wright, Frank Wright, Emily Wright; (25)

*Associate Members:* John & Pat Andrew, Ruby Burnett, Alison Harper, Pru & John King, Mary Levy, Alastair & Mrs MacGregor, J & H Mitchell WS, John Reid, Alf Sorensen, Ben Strachan, Alastair & Lindsay Sutherland, Esther Woodward; (16)

### 1. Welcome

Jim Gordon, BCT Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the good turnout with over 80 people present. He asked everyone to sign one of the clip boards being passed round and called for apologies to add to those already received in advance of the meeting.

### 2. Minutes of the Fifth AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2003

The Chairman introduced the Minutes of the last AGM. As there were no questions or comments, the Chairman proposed the Minutes for approval and this was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

### 3. Special Resolution in Respect of Articles 17, 59, 60 & 61

The Chairman explained that the Special Resolution set out in BCT's Annual Report circulated to all members, was to enable BCT to have an Independent Financial Examination of its Annual Accounts rather than a full audit, as this would be more appropriate for a charity of BCT's size. The Chairman proposed the Resolution for approval and this was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

### 4. Chairman's Report on Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003

The Chairman presented his Report, noting that a copy was printed in BCT's Annual Report. He highlighted BCT's success during the year in buying Finzean Old School and Birse Kirk and Church Hall. He cited the Kirk and Hall in particular as an example of the local community pulling together and acknowledged both the grants and local donations received towards the purchases. He clarified with reference to the section in his Report about BCT's accounting year, that Trustees were only

considering the possibility of changing it away from the calendar to see if there would be any benefits from such a change.

#### **5. Company Accounts for the Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2003**

The Chairman introduced BCT's Annual Accounts for 2003 and then BCT's Manager, Tricia Frampton-Heldman took members through the full set of accounts provided, noting and explaining a range of points. In the following discussion, the Chairman noted his concern at the reduction in the reserve of flexible funds held by BCT and the need to account for the use of these more clearly in future. He highlighted that meeting its core administrative costs each year that were not covered by grants, is a major challenge for BCT. The Chairman proposed BCT's 2003 Accounts for approval and this was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

#### **6. Appointment of Auditors & Fixing of Auditor Remuneration**

The Chairman acknowledged the work by Anderson Anderson Brown, which had included accountancy as well as the audit with resultant extra costs. The Chairman noted that the fees should be less in 2004 with the Independent Financial Examination rather than audit. He proposed that Anderson Anderson Brown should be re-appointed for 2004 with the fees to be agreed at Trustees discretion and this was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

#### **7. Fixing of Annual Subscription for Associate Members**

The Chairman proposed keeping Associate Member subscriptions at £20 (UK) and £25 (overseas) and this was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

#### **8. Election of Trustee**

The Chairman reported that Lynne Gordon had decided to retire as a Trustee and paid tribute to her tremendous contribution to the Trust. He also explained that, as the longest serving Trustee had to stand down each year under Article 35 of the Trust's constitution, Guy Haslam also had to stand down. He noted, however, that it was hoped to co-opt him back as a Trustee at the first Board meeting after the AGM.

#### **9. Any Other Business**

The Chairman announced Tricia Frampton-Heldman's retirement as BCT's Manager / Coordinator and introduced Mike Thornton, who was succeeding her as Interim Manager pending the post being advertised and a formal appointment being made.

*Following the end of the formal business of the AGM, the Chairman then introduced Hector Riddell and his accompanist to perform a number of songs.*

#### **Presentation & Discussion**

Guy Haslam, BCT's Vice-Chairman, gave a presentation about BCT and its future development. In the discussion, there was a particular focus on the measures BCT has in place to protect the North Hill of the Forest of Birse Community from fires such as the major one in 2003. Robin Callander, BCT's project manager for the North Hill, outlined the steps BCT had taken since that fire to prevent and manage any future fires, including its arrangements with Ballogie Estate for fire fighting and its plans to establish some long term firebreaks by planting native broadleaved trees.

*Following the discussion, the Chairman introduced David Duncan to recite a poem..*

#### **Closing Remarks**

In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and all those who had made it such a positive and enjoyable occasion.

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