

# BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

## Minutes of BCT's Seventh AGM

11<sup>th</sup> May 2005

Finzean Hall

### Present

Ordinary Members: John Addy, Aidan Bell, Alan & Jane Bennett, Bert Booth, Val Buchanan, Robin & Rita Callander, Margaret Chapman, Bill Christie, George Christie, Elizabeth Clarke, David & Annie Duncan, Robert & Dorothy Dinnie, Andrew & Kate Farquharson, Angus Farquharson, John & Sandra Forster, Jane & Ian Fraser, Doug & Elizabeth Gray, Evelyn Hall, Guy Haslam, Ray Hewson, Ian Hector, John Hector, Wendy Hector, Jack Holt, Dave Latham, Diane Maher, Liz McConnach, Neil McConnach, Stan & Elizabeth Moyes, Julie Nicol, Brian Page, Robert Paterson, Brian Pattinson, Alastair Pout, Alasdair & Elizabeth Rose, Tom Scriven, Alan & Mel Shand, Donald & Anne Silcock, Joanna Strachan, Robert Thow, Andrew Walker, Jackie White, Christine & Richard Wright, Sarah Wright, Peggy Young; (58)

Associate Members: Bill & Eileen Bailey, Roderick & Fiona Begbie, Duncan Coutts, Joy Crofter, Fiona Grant, Tom Hall, Moira & Jim Laing, Alistair & Mary McGregor, Kevin Peace, Jim & Jean Shirer, Eric & Jo Sinclair, Jim & B. Walker, Morag Wilson, Esther Woodward (21)

In attendance: Councillor Peter Argyle (Aberdeenshire Council), Bob Booth (Dunecht Estates) (2)

### Apologies

Ordinary Members: Anke Addy, Diana & Ian Alcock, Alison Bell, Paul Chapman, Robert F. Dinnie, Michael & Jenni Eke, Alison Farquharson, John & Rosemary Forbes, Jim & Gillian Gordon, Ken Hall, Jean Haslam, Sandra Holt, Charles Insch, Hazel & Robbie Knorr, Geraldine McGowan, Leslie MacKenzie, Bob Naylor, Roberta Page, Mike Rumbles, Patricia & Bob Scales, Lord David Wilson, Mark White, Malcolm Wright (29)

Associate Members: Jim Bennett, David Jenkins, Colin Liddell, Mr. & Mrs D. Milne (16)

Others: Les Allan (Aberdeenshire Council), Sir Robert Smith MP (2)

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Guy Haslam, BCT's Chairman, welcomed everyone to the meeting, acknowledged the good turnout and explained the evening's programme. 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 Sixth AGM on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2004

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. There were no Matters Arising.

### 3. Company Accounts for the Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2004

The Chairman gave an illustrated presentation on BCT's Annual Accounts for 2004. He noted BCT's achievements while highlighting the challenge of securing enough unrestricted funding each year to meet BCT's core costs such as insurance premiums, accountancy fees and other operating overheads. The Chairman then proposed BCT's 2004 Accounts for approval and this was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

### 4. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiners (IFE) & Fixing of IFE's Remuneration

The Chairman noted that BCT's Accounts had been subject to an Independent Financial Examination by the accountants rather than an audit, as the level of the Accounts came below the threshold for an audit. He proposed that the accountants Anderson, Anderson and Brown in Aberdeen should be re-appointed again for 2005 with the fees to be agreed at Trustees discretion, unless Trustees identify a more economical or better suited option, and this was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

## **5. 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.

## **6. Special Resolution**

The Chairman explained that the Special Resolution set out in BCT's Annual Report circulated to all members, was to enable BCT to make changes to the provisions for BCT's Trustees and a range of other minor changes to update BCT's Memorandum and Articles. He noted that the main changes were, as covered in the Annual Report, to ensure that only local Members could become elected Trustees, to ensure that co-opted Trustees could not outnumber elected Trustees and that, subject to a maximum five year term, the longest serving Trustee did not have to stand down each year if another Trustee was standing down. The Chairman proposed the following Special Resolution for approval which was duly passed unanimously: *Special Resolution to adopt changes to the existing Memorandum & Articles of Association (incorporated on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1998 and amended on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2001 and 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2004) as shown underlined in the copy of the Memorandum and Articles referred to in the Notice calling the Annual General Meeting, available for inspection also at the Trust's Office, Finzean Post Office and Ballogie Estate Office and on the Trust's website and a signed copy of which is held by the Chairman at the AGM.*

## **7. Election of Trustees**

The Chairman reported that Brian Page, Donald Silcock and Diane Maher had been nominated to be Trustees and that, as there were three vacancies for elected Trustees, they would each now be duly elected as a BCT Trustee. This was unanimously endorsed by the meeting.

## **8. Appointment of New Patron**

The Chairman reported that Lord Wilson's three year appointment as BCT's Patron had now ended and that the Trustees proposed that he should be succeeded for a three year term by local resident Mike Rumbles MSP. The Chairman reported that Mike Rumbles had sent his apologies as he had been called away to an important meeting in Edinburgh and would be honoured to be BCT's Patron. The proposal was unanimously endorsed by the meeting.

## **9. Chairman's Report on Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2004**

The Chairman gave an illustrated presentation to elaborate on his Report printed in BCT's Annual Report. In the following discussion, the success of the School Wood project was commented upon, the quality of BCT's newsletter was praised and its costs explained, and, in responding to a question about BCT's communication with its membership, the Chairman encourage any member who wanted to find out more about the work of BCT to contact the BCT office. The Chairman then proposed his Annual Report to the meeting and it was unanimously endorsed. Lastly, the Chairman explained BCT's proposals to try and buy Slewdrum Forest on behalf of the community. It was recalled that this long running proposal had originally been endorsed by the AGM in 2002. The Chairman put the proposal to the meeting and it was unanimously re-endorsed.

## **Presentation & Discussion**

Following the end of the formal business of the AGM, Dave Latham gave a presentation about BCT's Projects as one of BCT's Project Managers. He described the main types of projects with which BCT is involved, emphasising the range and amount of work that is being carried out on behalf of the community and the number of local people involved in that work. He then answered questions.

*Following the discussion, the Chairman introduced David Duncan to recite 'The Muckle Spate of Twenty Nine'.*

## **Closing Remarks**

In closing the meeting, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and all those who had made it such a good occasion. The Reverend Jack Holt then proposed a vote of thanks in appreciation of the Chairman's four years as a BCT Trustee. This was warmly endorsed by the meeting.

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