

Birse Community Trust
Minutes of BCT's Eighth Annual General Meeting
held on 10th May 2006
in Ballogie Hall.

Ordinary Members Present: Maree Anderson, John Addy, Jane Bennett, Robin Callander, Paul Chapman, E. Christie, Mary Christie, George Christie, Victor Clements, Louise Counsell, Dorothy Dinnie(Marywell, G. Dinnie. Dorothy Dinnie (Birsebeg), Robert Dinnie, Robert Dinnie Jnr, Andrew Douglas, J. Douglas, J. Eke, M. Eke, Alison Farquharson, Angus Farquharson, Sandra Forster, John Forster, A. Fraser, Esther Gooch, Doug Gray, Elizabeth M. Gray, Sheila Harper, J. A. Hector, Wendy Hector, C. Inch, Helen Jackson, Steve Kew, David Latham, Audrey Litterick, Neil McConnach, J. H. Nicol, Bobbie Page, Brian Page, Brian Patterson, Rick Paul, David Cochrane , Alastair Pout, Alastair Rose, Sabine Shand, Allan Short, Anne F. Silcock, Donald Silcock, Elizabeth Small, John Small, Andrew Walker, Jayne Williamson, C.D. Wright, R. Wright (54)

Associate Members Present: Bill Bailey, Eileen Bailey, Liz Birse, Ron Birse, Jim Shirer, Jean Shirer, G.J. W?, , Barbara Walker, Jim Walker, Peter Argyll. (10)

Apologies: Ordinary Members – Diane Alcock, Ian Alcock, Alan Bennett Rita Callander Rex Chapman, Margaret Chapman, Jackie Chapman, Neil Christie, Irene Christie Andrew Farquharson, Kate Farquharson Donald Farquharson, Catriona Farquharson, Ken Hall, Evelyn Hall, Ron Harper, Guy Haslam, Jean Haslam, David Hector, Diane Maher, Andrew Nicol, Malcolm Nicol, Elizabeth Rose, Mike Rumbles (Patron), Pat Scales, Bob Scales, Joanna Strachan, Sarah Wright, Malcolm Wright, Emily Wright, Frank Wright, Rupert Wright (32) **Associate Members** – Alison Harper, Prudence King, John King, Colin Liddell, J & H Mitchell, Eric Sinclair, Jill Sinclair, Stuart Young. (8)

1. Welcome & Apologies

Donald Silcock, Chairman, on behalf of the Board of Trustees welcomed everyone to the Eighth Annual General Meeting of Birse Community Trust. Those present were asked to ensure that they had signed in on one of the clipboards. Apologies had been received from 32 Ordinary Members and from 8 Associate Members.

2. Minutes of the Seventh Annual General Meeting held on 11th May 2005

Minutes of the Seventh AGM having been made available, the Chairman asked if the minutes were accepted. Approval of the minutes was proposed by Angus Farquharson and seconded by Anne Silcock.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the seventh AGM.

4. Trustees Report for the Year to 31st December 2005

Donald Silcock, on behalf of the Board presented the Trustees Report for 2005. During the year the Board had comprised Donald Silcock (Chairman), Brian Page (Vice-Chairman), Sandra Forster, Neil McConnach and Diane Maher. He thanked them for their support and said how privileged he had been to have been working with such talented people.

In addition to regular meetings of the Board, visits had been made to the various sites and presentations had been given by individual project managers so that Trustees were familiar with the ongoing work being done. Through a Birse Community Liaison Group various topics of mutual interest had been discussed. Considerable progress had been made with the Local History Archive, with

building work at the Soup Kitchen, with the completion of the first stage of restoration of the Fungle footpath and restoration work on the two waterwheels at the Finzean Mills. Work done within the Development Project was starting the bear fruit for the organisation.

During the latter half of 2005 Trustees revised the management structure of BCT following recommendations from the Development Project. A central co-ordinator role rather than a full-time manager was being explored and was proving to be beneficial. As an alternative to a Manager, a management team of project managers and general operations people were currently meeting on a regular basis. A more stringent approach to financial expenditure and business management would be adopted.

During 2006, the Board would be taking forward the already well-advanced process of acquisition of Slewdrum Forest for the community, having obtained the backing of over 98% of the community. A business plan for the development of the forest was part of the process. Funding for most of the purchase price had already been approved by Scottish Land Fund, Scottish natural Heritage and Scottish Enterprise Grampian. The Board had commented on an objection lodged by Feughside West Community Council on behalf of the residents of Strachan. The possibility of a renewable energy scheme at the Mills was again being investigated in the light of more advanced technology and the use of the Old School building to attract new tenants and increased income was also being explored.

In line with new charity legislation and in the light of the potential purchase of Slewdrum Forest, the Board were investigating a proposal that a limited trading company, as a wholly owned subsidiary of BCT, be set up. Not only would it be a requirement as part of the funding for Slewdrum but a major element in the way forward for BCT. Those present at the meeting indicated their support for this action.

Future plans and ideas for the Board to consider were improvements to the Old School Building, a review of the Strategic Plan, participating in the formation of a Core Paths network and the Deeside way and investigation into renewable energy schemes.

The Chairman concluded by thanking Diane Maher who was stepping down as a Trustee and wishing her continuing success with her local business. He also thanked all who had continued to offer their expertise, project ideas and financial support to BCT

The Trustees Report was unanimously accepted. The full text of the Report for 2005 formed part of the published Annual Report.

5. Company Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2005

The Annual Accounts for the year to 31st December 2005 had been prepared by Anderson, Anderson & Brown, Chartered Accountants and an Extract of the Accounts published in the Annual Report sent out with the Notice of the Annual General Meeting. Accepted.

6. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner and Fixing of the Independent Financial Examiner's Remuneration

Those present were asked to delegate responsibility to the Trustees to appoint a suitable Independent Financial Examiner on behalf of BCT and to fix their remuneration. This was approved.

7. Fixing of Annual Subscription for Associate Members

It was recommended by Trustees, and approved by members present, that the Annual Subscription for Associate Members should remain unchanged at £20 (UK) and £25(Overseas).

8. Election of Trustee.

Two nominations, of Dorothy Buchan Dinnie (Marywell) and John Herkis Small, having been received for the one vacancy, a paper ballot of ordinary members present took place. Following a count of votes by two ordinary members supervised by the Co-ordinator, the Chairman announced that Dorothy Dinnie had been elected as a Trustee.

There being no questions from the floor, Donald Silcock thanked the members of the Management Team for their efforts and for the arrangements for the evening and Dorothy Dinnie for preparing the refreshments.

Before ending the evening with tea/coffee and an opportunity to view the exhibition of current projects, those present enjoyed a colourful digital tour around Birse parish compiled by Bill Bailey to illustrate the ways in which BCT was contributing to its conservation.