

**Birse Community Trust**  
**Minutes of BCT's Ninth Annual General Meeting**  
**Held on 15th May 2007**  
**in Finzean Hall.**

**Ordinary Members Present:** *Maree Anderson, Bert Booth, Alan Butchart, Robin Callander, Paul Chapman, Elsie Christie, George Christie, A. Davidson. Dorothy Dinnie (Marywell, Gordon Dinnie. Dorothy Dinnie (Birsebeg), Robert Dinnie, Annie Duncan, David Duncan, Michael Eke, Angus Farquharson, Sandra Forster, John Forster, Doug Gray, Elizabeth M. Gray, Sheila Harper, Sandra Holt, Guy Haslam, Ian Hector, John Hector, Wendy Hector, David Latham, Steven Lindsay, Liz McConnach, Bobbie Page, Brian Page, Brian Pattinson, Shirley Pattinson, Rick Paul, Alastair Pout, Bill Powrie, S. Powrie, Allan Shand, Donald Silcock, Anne Silcock, Donna Thow, Christine Wright, Richard Wright (43)*

**Associate Members Present:** *Bill Bailey, Eileen Bailey, Alison Harper, Mary McGregor, Alistair McGregor, Malcolm Nicol, Jean Shirer, Barbara Walker, James Walker (9)*

**Apologies from Ordinary Members:** *Diane Alcock, Ian Alcock, Rex Chapman, Margaret Chapman, Jackie Chapman, Jennie Eke, Alison Farquharson, Andrew Farquharson, Kate Farquharson, Donald Farquharson, Catriona Farquharson, John Forbes, Rosemary Forbes, Ken Hall, Evelyn Hall, Ron Harper, Jean Haslam, David Hector, Jack Holt, Audrey Litterick, Andrew Nicol, Julie Nicol, Anne Paul, Andrew Walker, Sarah Wright, Malcolm Wright, Emily Wright, Frank Wright, Rupert Wright, Benjamin Wright (30)*

**Apologies from Associate Members:** *Ron Birse, Mrs L. Birse, Prudence King, John King, Colin Liddell & Duncan Thomson of J & H Mitchell, John Thomson (7)*

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

Donald Silcock, Chairman, on behalf of the Board of Trustees welcomed everyone to the Ninth Annual General Meeting of Birse Community Trust. Apologies were noted from 30 Ordinary Members and 7 Associate Members.

### **2. Minutes of the Eighth Annual General Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2006**

The minutes of the Eighth AGM having been made available, the Chairman asked for approval of the minutes This was proposed by Michael Eke and seconded by Christine Wright and unanimously approved by the Members present.

### **3. Matters Arising**

There were no Matters Arising from the minutes of the Eighth AGM.

### **4. Trustees Report for the Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006**

Donald Silcock, on behalf of the Board, presented the Trustees Report for 2006. He started by introducing his fellow Trustees:- Brian Page (Vice-Chairman), Sandra Forster and Dorothy Dinnie. He thanked them for all their work and for assisting him as Chairman. Sandra Forster, who was due to stand down, was eligible for re-election and had agreed to stand again. He went on to pay special tribute to the commitment and work of the late Neil McConnach, Trustee, who died suddenly one week after the 2006 AGM. Appreciation was also expressed for all the hard work done on a number of projects by John Addy, who had recently moved away from the area.

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 the Birse Community Liaison Group various topics of mutual interest had been discussed.

Highlights of 2006 had been the completion of phase three of the programme of restoration of the Finzean Mills, continued work on the Natural Heritage Project, the

completion of work on the Development project, the purchase of Slewdrum Forest and continued work within the eight-year Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme.

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 trading company be set up as a wholly owned subsidiary of BCT. This is both a requirement as part of the funding for Slewdrum and 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 all who had continued to offer their expertise, project ideas and financial support to BCT.

The Trustees Report, the full text of which formed part of the published Annual Report for 2006, was unanimously approved by the Members present.

#### **5. Company Accounts for the Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006**

The Annual Accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006 had been prepared by Anderson, Anderson & Brown, Chartered Accountants and an Extract of the Accounts had been published in the Annual Report sent out with the Notice of the Annual General Meeting. The Chairman asked for approval of the 2006 Accounts and this was given unanimously by the Members present.

#### **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 unanimously approved by the Members present.

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

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

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

Two nominations, Sandra Forster and Steven Lindsay, having been received for two vacancies, Sandra Forster was duly re-elected and Steven Lindsay elected as Trustees.

#### **9. Questions from the Floor**

Guy Haslam asked what the Board plan to do with Slewdrum Forest. The Chairman replied that Slewdrum offered opportunity for income to the Trust and improved amenity for members of the community. Michael Eke requested that maps of Slewdrum be made available for recreational use in due course. The Chairman noted that BCT would continue to consult the community about what they would like from the Forest.

Robert Dinnie asked if more could be done to link with the Education Authority, for example, by encouraging School visits to sites and it was agreed to follow this up.

Sandra Holt asked about public attendance at Board Meetings and Alison Harper enquired if this would be in the capacity of an observer or a participant. It was noted that the Memorandum & Articles of the Trust allowed for Members to attend Board meetings by arrangement with the Trustees.

The Chairman thanked all present for their attendance.

*Tea and Coffee were served at the end of the Meeting.*