

Birse Community Trust
Minutes of BCT's Tenth Annual General Meeting
held on 14th May 2008
in Ballogie Hall.

Members Present: *Alison Bell, Alan Butchart, Robin Callander, Paul Chapman, Margaret Chapman, Jackie Chapman, George Christie, Jacqui Christie, Mary Christie, Louise Counsell, Graham Davidson, Dorothy Dinnie (Marywell), Gordon Dinnie, Dorothy Dinnie (Birsebeg), Robert Dinnie, Angus Farquharson, Alison Farquharson, Donald Farquharson, Ellie Flather, John Forster, Sandra Forster, Doug Gray, Elizabeth M. Gray, Evelyn Hall, Sheila Harper, Guy Haslam, Ian Hector, John Hector, Wendy Hector, Charles Insch, Helen Jackson, Martin Johnson, Norman Kellas, David Latham, Jean Mcleod, Liz McConnach, Bobbie Page, Brian Page, Rick Paul, Alastair Pout, Alastair Rose, Donald Silcock, Anne Silcock, David Thow* (44)

Associate Members Present: *Eileen Bailey, Ron Birse, Liz Birse, Barbara Walker, James Walker., David Finch, Eric Sinclair, Jo Sinclair* (8)

Apologies from Ordinary Members: *Marie Anderson, Ursula Butchart, Rex Chapman, Robert Dinnie jnr., Kate Farquharson, Andrew Farquharson, John Forbes, Rosemary Forbes, Ken Hall, Ron Harper, Sarah Harker, Davie Hector, Jack Holt, Andrea Littlejohn, Audrey Litterick, Andrew Nicol, Steven Lindsay, Mike Rumbles, Mel Shand, Hazel Strachan, Joanna Strachan, Kevin Strachan, Ken Taylor, Pam Taylor, Donna Thow, Craig Thow, Andrew Walker, Christine Wright, Richard Wright* (29)

Apologies from Associate Members *Bill Bailey, David Jenkins, Prudence King, John King, Colin Liddell & Duncan Thomson of J & H Mitchell, Mrs & Mrs A. McGregor, Donald Thomas* (9)

1. Welcome and Apologies

Donald Silcock, Chairman, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, welcomed everyone to the Tenth Annual General Meeting of Birse Community Trust. Apologies were noted from 29 Ordinary Members and 9 Associate Members.

2. Minutes of the Ninth Annual General Meeting held on 15th May 2007

The minutes of the Ninth AGM having been made available, the Chairman asked that they be approved. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Guy Haslam and seconded by Anne Silcock and unanimously approved by the Members present.

3. Matters Arising

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

4. Trustees Report for the Year to 31st December 2007

On behalf of the Board, Donald Silcock presented the Trustees Report for 2007. In thanking his fellow Trustees - Brian Page (Vice-Chairman), Sandra Forster, Dorothy Dinnie and Steven Lindsay – he acknowledged their work and their assistance to him as Chairman.

Highlights of 2007 had been the progress made with Slewdrum Forest, the setting up of Birse Trading Company and receipt of the first income from the commercial contract to thin timber. Overall it had been a reasonably positive year for BCT with

achievements being made in several areas under difficult circumstances. It had, however, been a difficult financial year and the Chairman thanked Trustees and everyone associated with BCT for their efforts.

Guy Haslam asked if it was thought that Slewdrum was the solution to BCT's financial problems. In replying, Donald Silcock said that a long-term legacy was needed more than just Slewdrum.

The Trustees Report, the full text of which formed part of the published Annual Report for 2007, was unanimously approved by the Members present.

5. Election of Two Trustees

Retiring Trustees were Steven Lindsay and Sandra Forster. The Chairman thanked Steven Lindsay who was standing down at the end of his first year due to work commitments, for his help. He noted that Sandra Forster was the only Trustee who had attended every AGM since BCT was set up and paid tribute to her contribution to the work of the Board since 2004. On behalf of BCT office staff, Eileen Bailey, Co-ordinator, asked that the assistance which Sandra Forster had given to the office by being readily available when a Trustee was required should be acknowledged with thanks.

Two nominations having been received for the two vacancies, Jean McLeod, nominated by John Forster and seconded by Robin Callander, and Jacqueline Christie, proposed by Kathleen Moir and seconded by Anne-Marie Lloyd, were duly elected as Trustees.

6. Appointment of Honorary Patron

The Chairman said that, since it was first incorporated, the Honorary Patrons of the Trust had each held office for three years. Mike Rumbles had apologised that his commitments at the Scottish Parliament made it very difficult for him, particularly during the week, to be as involved as he would have liked with the work of BCT. The Chairman expressed gratitude to Mike Rumbles. Robert Dinnie, one of BCT's founding Trustees, had agreed to accept the invitation of the Board to become Honorary Patron and this was enthusiastically approved by those present at the meeting.

7. Company Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2007.

The Annual Accounts for the year to 31st 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 noted the assistance given by Christine Wright, Wendy Hector & Eileen Bailey. He asked for approval of the 2007 Accounts and this was given unanimously approved by the Members present.

8. 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.

9. 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.

Following the business meeting, Robin Callander outlined a proposed new project through which BCT would aim to purchase Balfour Wood for the community and so ensure continued income from timber sales. Within the project, BCT would also install a woodchip heating system at The Old School. This would serve both the Old School buildings and the adjacent Finzean Primary School.

John Forster then spoke on the subject of sustainability in communities such as Birse parish, and, drawing on interesting local examples, showed how the community could make a meaningful contribution by locating more businesses in rural areas, utilising the wide variety of skills which exist within the community and promoting the use of more locally grown food.

Both presentations were well received and much appreciated by members.

The Chairman thanked all present for their attendance.

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