

**BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST**  
**Minutes of BCT's Twelfth Annual General Meeting**  
**19<sup>th</sup> May 2010**  
**Ballogie Hall**

Members Present: *Doug Boyle, Robin Callander, Margaret Chapman, Rex Chapman, Jacqui Christie, Maree Christie, Roy Cowie, Graham Davidson, Dorothy Dinnie(B'beg), Dorothy Dinnie(M'well), Angus Farquharson, Alison Farquharson, Ellie Flather, John Forster, Sandra Forster, Alan Fraser, Eddie Gibbons, Barbara Gibbons, Gary Grant, Doug Gray, Betty Gray, Guy Haslam, Wendy Hector, John Hector, Ian Hector, Diana Hogarth, Charles Insch, Helen Jackson, Audrey Litterick, Alastair Mather, Jean McLeod, Andrew Nicol, Julie Nicol, Brian Page, Roberta Page, Brian Pattinson, Shirley Pattinson, Rick Paul, Alastair Rose, Elizabeth Rose, Allan Shand, Anne Silcock, Donald Silcock, Ken Taylor, Pam Taylor, Andrew Walker, Christine Wright, David Younie, Patsy Younie (49)*

Associate Members Present: *Bill Bailey, Eileen Bailey (2)*

Apologies from Ordinary Members: *Paul Chapman, Jackie Chapman, Robert Dinnie (Snr), Robert Dinnie (Jr), Gordon Dinnie, Jenni Eke, Michael Eke, Andrew Farquharson, Catriona Farquharson, Donald Farquharson, John Forbes, Rosemary Forbes, Alison Harper, Ron Harper, Sheila Harper, Davie Hector, Jack Holt, Sandra Holt, Isabel Insch, Steven Lindsay, Ean McLeod, Geraldine McGowan, Alastair McGregor, Mary McGregor, Bob Naylor, Anne Paul, Catherine Paul, Gareth Wright, Richard Wright (29)*

Apologies from Associate Members: *Colin Liddell, Duncan Thomson, both of J & H Mitchell WS, Malcolm Nicol (3)*

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**1. Welcome and apologies**

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, BCT's Chairman, Donald Silcock welcomed everyone to the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual General meeting. The apologies received were noted.

**2. Minutes of Last Board Meeting**

The Chairman asked for approval of the Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> AGM dated 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2009, these having previously been made available. Acceptance was proposed by Andrew Nicol, seconded by Guy Haslam and unanimously approved by the Members present.

**3. Outstanding Matters Arising:**

There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Eleventh Annual General Meeting

**4. Special Resolution to Adopt New Memorandum and Articles of Association, in complete substitution for those by which BCT was incorporated on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1998 (and which were subsequently amended on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2001, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2004 and 11<sup>th</sup> May 2005), and which conform to the new draft available for inspection by the Members prior to the AGM**

The Chairman advised the members present that the M & A's had been updated to reflect changes in Charity Regulation and the way BCT actually operates in line with recommendations from BCT's solicitors.

From the floor, John Forster commented that he would recommend that members should have to opt in to e-mail updates rather than having to opt out. The Chairman noted the comment and assured the meeting that this would be investigated.

The Chairman asked for a show of hands to accept the new M and A's in their entirety. The votes were counted by Donald Silcock and Rick Paul and were as follows:

In favour of full acceptance	46
Against	0
Abstained	5

The new M & A's will therefore be incorporated by BCT

**5. Trustees' Report for the Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009**

**Activities** The Chairman reported small scale improvements at various BCT sites as noted in the last two Updates, including the Foggage Road in Balfour Wood and the Archive. He also highlighted RSPB seminars which BCT had facilitated.

He referred to 2009 as the year of rejection by the Big Lottery Fund. Once in February and again in November, BCT had failed in its bid to fund the purchase of Balfour Wood. A great deal of effort had been channelled into these bids to the detriment of other projects. Although officially part of the 2010 report, he was pleased to be able to tell the members that thanks to a substantial donation, BCT had recently been successful in its acquisition of Balfour, now to be renamed Balfour Forest. The Chairman noted a personal thank you to Robin Callander for his sterling efforts in this matter.

**Finances** Reduced expenditure in 2009 was matched by reduced income. The situation was eased by a generous donation from Ruby Burnett, known as the Burnett Legacy. A graph was shown of income v. expenditure showing that income was again ahead of expenditure.

From the floor, Doug Gray queried the fact that BCT owned various properties, some of which had not been surveyed, but had no visible means of maintaining them. He stated that the burst pipe in the Old School occurred because there had been no inspection and also that the electricity pole to the Soup Kitchen was leaning over. The Chairman replied that running costs for BCT were in the region £20/25k p.a. and that grant bodies will not fund maintenance, but that the acquisition of Balfour will provide BCT with the steady income required to remedy these problems. The maintenance at the Old School had been on hold pending the result from the BLF, but matters will now be addressed.

From the floor, Alastair Mather queried the fact that of the £58k BCT expended, £27k was spent on Land Management, but this was not detailed. Robin Callander replied that one line on the accounts covers all Land Management activity, for example planting in the Forest of Birse (£6-8k), but this is not all physical work. There were professional fees incurred for the purchase of Balfour Forest. He accepted that greater detail would be preferable.

**Management** The Chairman reported that 2009 had brought a changed structure to BCT management. For the first nine months, BCT operated with an interim Secretary to the Board. In October, Rick Paul was appointed Secretary to the Board and part time Office Manager.

The Chairman paid tribute to the members who freely gave their time to ensure BCT could function. All the Trustees are volunteers, and voluntary time recorded by other members amounted to £5.5k, without which BCT would find it extremely difficult to operate.

The Trustees' report was formally accepted by the traditional rumbling of feet by the members.

#### 6. Election of Two Trustees.

The Chairman reported that two trustees were standing down at this AGM – himself and Brian Page, who had both served for two terms. He thanked Brian for his help, his technical skills and for taking the role of temporary Chairman when he was unable to attend meetings.

There had been two nominations for the two vacancies, hence no requirement for a ballot. Gary Grant and Charles Insch were duly elected uncontested to be Trustees.

#### 7. Approval of the Accounts for the Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009

The Annual accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 had been prepared by Anderson, Anderson and Brown, Chartered Accountants and an extract of the Accounts had been published in the Annual Report sent out to all Members with the Notice of the Annual General Meeting. The Chairman noted with thanks the assistance with BCT's accounts given by Christine Wright, who was stepping down after five years.

From the floor, John Forster noted that the fees paid to the independent examiner were only itemised on the full accounts, not the extract. Christine Wright replied that accountants' fees were included in 'Governance Costs'.

The Chairman asked for approval of the 2009 accounts which were unanimously approved by all Members present.

#### 8. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner

The Chairman reported that for the last five years Anderson, Anderson and Brown had been appointed to examine BCT's accounts. As more and more legislation comes on board, they have a charitable department to advise BCT on such matters. With Christine Wright stepping down, A, A and B will give BCT continuity, and therefore the Chairman requested that the members delegate responsibility for appointing the Examiners along with their remuneration to the Trustees. This was unanimously approved by all members present.

#### 9. Fixing of Annual Subscription for Associate Members

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

#### 10. A.O.B.

From the floor, Guy Haslam noted that BCT now owned £0.5m of forests which will support the Trust in the future. He suggested that next year a slide be shown showing in what direction BCT is heading.

From the Trustees, Andrew Walker formally thanked Donald Silcock and Brian Page for all the effort they had made on behalf of the Trust and wished them well.

The Chairman noted the end of the formal business of the meeting and thanked all present for attending.

He then invited Eileen Bailey, BCT Archivist to explain the workings of the BCT Archive. Eileen gave a fascinating talk which was greatly appreciated by all for which she was duly thanked.

Tea and cakes were served after the meeting courtesy of Dorothy Dinnie (B'beg)



15<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Signed..... Date.....