

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Fourteenth Annual General Meeting

30th May 2012

Finzean Hall

Ordinary Members Present: Alan Bennett, Doug Boyle, Robin Callander, Rob Carter, Louise Counsell, Dorothy Dinnie, (Birsebeg), Robert Dinnie, Dorothy Dinnie (Marywell), Angus Farquharson, Ellie Flather, Ann Fletcher, John Forster, Sandra Forster, Lynne Gordon, Gary Grant, Mel Grant, Doug Gray, Guy Haslam, Jean Haslam, David Hector, Ian Hector, John Hector, Wendy Hector, Diana Hogarth, Peter Hopkins, Helen Jackson, Charles Laing, Moira Laing, Dave Latham, Jean McLeod, Kate Monohan, Andrew Nicol, Julie Nicol, Rick Paul, James Reid, Ian Ritchie, Brian Robertson, Simon Robson, Alastair Rose, Allan Shand, Mel Shand, Anne Silcock, Paul Tanner, Ken Taylor, David Winton, Jane Winton, Sarah Wright, David Younie (48)

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

Apologies from Ordinary Members: John Belchamber, Jane Belchamber, Andrew Counsell, Michael Eke, Aileen Ellis, Alison Farquharson, Andrew Farquharson, Catriona Farquharson, Donald Farquharson, Kate Farquharson, John Forbes, Dawn Gibbs, Esther Gooch, Dan Gooch, Betty Gray, Ron Harper, Sheila Harper, Charles Insch, Andrea Littlejohn, Sian Loftus, Ean McLeod, Isobel Macrobbe, Bryan Miller, Anne Paul, Catherine Paul, Elspeth Prestige, Donald Silcock, Pam Taylor, Gareth Wright, Malcolm Wright, Richard Wright, Samantha Wright (32)

Apologies from Associate Members: Malcolm Nicol (1)

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, BCT's Vice Chair, Dorothy Dinnie, welcomed everyone to the 14th Annual General Meeting. She noted the apologies of BCT's Chairman Charles Insch, who is recovering from illness, and also noted the other apologies received. She thanked the pupils from the Finzean School of Piping for their playing at the start of the AGM and made presentations to Bill and Eileen Bailey and Doug Gray for their contributions to the work of BCT over many years.

2. **Minutes of Last Annual General Meeting**

Trustee Ken Taylor asked for approval of the Minutes of BCT's 13th AGM on 15th June 2011, these having previously been made available. Acceptance was proposed by Paul Tanner, seconded by Brian Robertson and approved by the Members present.

3. **Matters Arising**

It was confirmed that there were no matters arising from the Minutes of the last AGM.

4. **Trustees' Report for the Year to 31st December 2011**

Trustee Ken Taylor noted that 2011 had been BCT's thirteenth year of operation and then summarised the Trustees Report for 2011, which had formed part of the BCT Annual Report sent to all Members. He highlighted as particular achievements the creation of the Finzean Community Path and the completion of the long term Forest Plans for the three forests managed by BCT.

Approval of the Trustees Report was proposed by Guy Haslam, seconded by Sir Angus Farquharson, and approved by the Members present.

More general questions about BCT's operations were invited and a number of points were discussed. Guy Haslam asked about the sustainability of BCT's income from timber harvesting. It was noted that BCT needs income to meet its core operating costs, which have remained broadly constant at around £25K each year, and for other work that can not be covered by grants. Robin Callander, BCT's forest adviser, explained that long term projections indicate that the forests have the potential to produce a sustainable average annual income of around

£20K at today's prices and that BCT's Forest Plans as approved by Forestry Commission Scotland, are based on a pattern of thinning, felling and restocking to deliver this sustainable income. It was noted that BCT also needed to develop other sources of income, particularly with outside grant funding declining, and that encouraging members of the community to leave legacies to BCT to help conserve the parish's local heritage should be an important part of that.

Guy Haslam and John Forster stressed the need to ensure that BCT's strategic and operating plans demonstrate how any income, particularly that from timber, will be deployed to help achieve BCT's goals. Trustees responded that BCT was half way through its current three year Strategic Plan for 2011-13 and that this Plan and the accompanying Property Schedule set out BCT's overall plans, including a list of priorities that BCT wants to achieve during the period of the Plan. It was acknowledged by Trustees that a business plan for the Strategy had not been developed due to BCT's changing circumstances and that BCT would make progress on this. It was also confirmed by Trustees that it would engage the community in discussions about BCT's next Strategic Plan, when BCT started to consider this during 2013.

Brain Robertson asked whether BCT might become involved in path construction in Ballogie. It was confirmed that this was the case and noted that this depended, as with the Finzean Community Path, on a clear ambition for the path within the community, the agreement of the landowner(s) and applying successfully for grant funding.

5. Election of Trustees

Trustee Gary Grant explained that, with Ken Taylor and Dorothy Dinnie retiring as Trustees and Jean McLeod stepping down due to Trustee rotation, there were three vacancies on the Board. He informed the meeting that three nominations had been received:- Jean McLeod, Moira Laing and Paul Tanner. He confirmed that the nominees were therefore elected unopposed as Trustees and thanked the retiring Trustees for their contribution to BCT.

6. Approval of the Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2011

It was reported that the Annual Accounts for the year to 31st December 2011 had been prepared by Linda Scott and independently examined by Anderson, Anderson and Brown, Chartered Accountants. An extract of the Accounts had been published in the Annual Report sent to all Members with the Notice of the Annual General Meeting. Doug Gray raised a question about the relationship between BCT and BCo that related to a previous year and after discussion, it was agreed that Trustees would discuss this with him in more detail following the AGM. Approval of the Accounts for 2011 was then proposed by Paul Tanner, seconded by Guy Haslam, and approved by the Members present.

7. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner

The Vice Chair reported that for the last seven years Anderson, Anderson and Brown had been appointed to examine BCT's Accounts and that they were familiar with the workings of BCT. It was proposed that BCT continues with this arrangement and this was approved by the Members present.

8. 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 approved by the Members present.

There being no further points raised, the Vice Chair ended the formal business of the meeting. She thanked all present for attending and those that had contributed to the arrangements for the AGM. Mel Shand then gave an illustrated talk on 'A Portrait of our Time'.