

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of 22nd Annual General Meeting held via Zoom on 13th September 2020

Ordinary Members Present: Aidan Bell, Alison Bell, Liz Bracegirdle, Graham Davidson, Nancy Davidson, Dorothy Dinnie, Robert Dinnie, Andrew Farquharson, Donald Farquharson, Hamish Forbes, Sheila Forbes, Guy Haslam, Jean Haslam, Jonathan Kitching, Dave Latham, Simon Lindsay, Andrea Littlejohn, Sian Loftus, Jean McLeod, Alastair Pout, Liz Pout, Toby Rider, Anneka Stolte, Malcolm Wright, Sarah Wright, David Younie (26)

Others Present: Rick Paul (1)

Apologies from Ordinary Members: Alexandra Haslam, Anne Silcock, Alastair Winton, David Winton, Jane Winton, Richard Wright (6)

Apologies from Others: Sarah Brown (Company Secretary) (1)

1. Welcome and Apologies.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair of BCT's Trustees, Guy Haslam, welcomed everyone to BCT's 22nd Annual General Meeting, and noted the apologies and the 6 proxy voting forms received the requisite 48 hours before the meeting. He stated that the Trust were legally bound to hold their AGM by 30th September 2020 and that the Trustees planned to hold an open meeting as soon as the Covid Restrictions allowed. This meeting would focus on the formal AGM agenda.

2. Minutes of 21st Annual General Meeting held on 26th May 2019.

Guy asked for approval of the Minutes of BCT's 21st AGM held on 26th May 2019. They were proposed by Jean McLeod and seconded by Alison Bell, and approved by the members unopposed.

3. Matters Arising.

There was one matter arising from last year's minutes, the Forest Plan Scoping Exercise. Guy explained that BCTCo managed Balfour and Slewdrum forests, whilst BCT managed the Woods on the Commonty. Scottish Woodlands are currently conducting the Scoping Plan for the woods on the North Hill area of the Commonty on behalf of the Trust and are due to send the results of the study to the Trustees in the next month. The Trustees will discuss the report and get the draft Forest plan updated. This plan would then be taken to an open community meeting as soon as the situation allows.

4. Trustees' Report for the Year to 31st December 2019.

Guy introduced the Trustees' Report as printed in BCT's Annual Report. This report covers all BCT's activity in 2019, but The Old School Project, and the 'Aye, it was A'body' Project, both successfully led by Sian Loftus. It was approved by the members unopposed.

5. Approval of the Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2019.

Guy provided an overview of the Annual Accounts printed in the Annual Report, covering the main items of income and expenditure in 2019. The Accounts were proposed by Aidan Bell, seconded by Donald Farquharson and approved by the members unopposed.

6. Election of Trustees

Guy informed those present that John Hector and Jonathan Kitching were retiring as Trustees leaving two posts vacant on the Board. He informed the meeting that BCT had received two nominations to become Trustees from Sian Loftus and Liz Bracegirdle and they were therefore duly elected unopposed. The Trustees then agreed to co-opt Simon Lindsey to the Board of Trustees, having been proposed by Toby Rider and seconded by Alison Bell.

Guy informed that meeting that he was obliged to stand down as Chair after having served three years in the post, but is eligible to be re-elected if the Trustees so desire at the next Board Meeting.

Guy informed the meeting that Jean McLeod had served her three years as Patron of the Trust but has agreed to serve a further term. This was approved by the members unopposed.

7. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner.

Guy explained that the Trustees are very satisfied with the way our current financial examiners handle BCT's accounts and proposed that they be re-appointed for this coming year. This was approved by the members unopposed.

8. Fixing of Annual Subscription for Associate Members.

Guy explained that the Trustees recommend that the Annual Subscription for Associate Members should remain at £20 (UK) and £25 (Overseas). This was approved by the members unopposed.

There being no further formal business, Guy concluded the AGM

Following the AGM, Guy Haslam, supported by the other Trustees, asked for a question from the floor.

Forest Plan

Alastair Pout looked for reassurance that no work relating to the Forest Plan be undertaken prior to all its issues being considered at a public meeting. He stressed, and the Trustees agreed, that the Community had very different objectives from Balfour and Slewdrum Forests.

In Closing

Finally, Guy thanked outgoing Trustees John Hector and Jonathan Kitching in particular, but in general all those who contributed to the continued success of Birse Community Trust.