

BIRSE COMMUNITY TRUST

Minutes of Nineteenth Annual General Meeting

21st May 2017

Finzean Hall

Ordinary Members Present:, *Doug Boyle, Eoghan Cameron, Margaret Chapman, Rex Chapman, Dorothy Dinnie (Birsebeg), Robert Dinnie, Donald Farquharson, Doug Gray, Guy Haslam, David Hector, Ian Hector, John Hector, Kerry Hector, Wendy Hector, Jonathan Kitching, Bruce McKenzie, Kay McKenzie, Jean McLeod, Brian Pattinson, Rick Paul, Allan Shand, Mel Shand, Jane Winton, David Younie, Patsy Younie (25)*

Associate Members Present: *Prue King (1)*

Apologies from Ordinary Members: *Aidan Bell, Alison Bell, Alan Bennett, Jane Bennett, Robin Callander, Jacqui Chapman, Paul Chapman, Billy Christie, Kathryn Christie, Ewan Christie, Deborah Dinnie, Hazel Dinnie, Robert F Dinnie, Andrew Farquharson, Angus Farquharson, Kate Farquharson, Ellie Flather, Dawn Gibbs, Marty Gibbs, Jean Haslam, Shirley Pattinson, Will Pattinson, Anne Paul, Zoe Paul, David Winton, Gareth Wright, Richard Wright, Samantha Wright, (28)*

1. Welcome and Apologies.

On behalf of the Board, the Chair of BCT's Trustees, Jean McLeod, welcomed everyone to BCT's 19th Annual General Meeting, and noted the apologies.

2. Minutes of 18th Annual General Meeting held on 17th May 2016.

Jean McLeod asked for approval of the Minutes of BCT's 18th AGM on 17th May 2016, these having been made available. Approval was proposed by David Younie and seconded by Mel Shand.

3. Matters Arising.

It was confirmed that there were no Matters Arising.

4. Trustees' Report for the Year to 31st December 2016.

Trustee Doug Boyle introduced the Trustees' Report as printed in BCT's Annual Report. From the floor, a question was asked about the management of the Trust. Trustee Guy Haslam replied that this would be explained in the presentation following the formal AGM. The Trustees' Report was then adopted by the members present.

5. Approval of the Accounts for the Year to 31st December 2016.

Guy Haslam introduced the Annual Accounts as printed in BCT's Annual Report. He gave an overview of income and expenditure and explained how the recent land purchase at Slewdrum had increased the Trust's assets. He also noted that the new mobile phone mast at Slewdrum would increase the Trust's income. The Annual Accounts were approved in a show of hands by a clear majority.

6. Election of up to three Trustees

Trustee Jonathan Kitching explained that due to Trustee rotation, it fell to Jean McLeod to step down from the Board. He explained that there were three vacancies on the Board for which one nomination had been received. He confirmed that Allan Shand was therefore duly elected unopposed as a Trustee.

7. **Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner.**

Jonathan Kitching asked the members present for approval for the Board to re-appoint Bain Henry Reid as the Trust's independent financial examiners for a further year. This was approved in a show of hands by a clear majority with none against.

8. **Fixing of Annual Subscription for Associate Members.**

Jonathan Kitching explained that Trustees recommended that the Annual Subscription for Associate Members should remain at £20 (UK) and £25 (Overseas). This was approved in a show of hands by a clear majority with none against.

9. **Appointment of BCT Patron.**

Trustee John Hector noted that current Patron Robert Dinnie was stepping down after being BCT's Patron since 2008 and having been involved with the Trust from the very beginning. He has always been ably supported by his wife Dorothy and in recognition of both their contributions to BCT, they were presented with engraved glasses for Robert and flowers for Dorothy.

Retiring Chair of Trustees Jean McLeod was proposed as new Patron, this being approved by the members present in a show of hands.

Jean joined the Board in 2008 and was Chair from 2012. In appreciation of all she had done for the Trust, Doug Boyle presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

There being no further formal business, Doug Boyle concluded the AGM

Following the AGM, Guy Haslam, supported by the other Trustees, gave a presentation of the future of the Trust. He first discussed key points from 2016, then the years to come as detailed in the Strategic Plan 2016-2020. He explained the way in which Trustees and Managers were responsible for the various aspects of running BCT, and responded to questions and comments from the floor on:-

- *BCT's accounts and the repair of the old School*
- *The management of the Trust*
- *The long term strategy for the 2 Forests*
- *The Glen Dye Windfarm (The Trustees agreed to discuss BCT's response at the next Trustee Meeting)*
- *BCT Supporting Community Events*

Finally he noted that the Trust had broken with tradition by holding its AGM on a Sunday to combine it with a visit to the Finzean Mills, (attended by 22 people, all but 6 of whom attended the AGM), and asked if members thought that this had been successful. The meeting felt that on balance it was a positive move.