

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Reforesting Scotland
Glencanisp Lodge, Lochinver, Sunday 4th October 2015, 9.30am

Present: Sally Macpherson (Chair), Ninian Stuart, Hugh Chalmers, Nicky Penford, Fi Martynoga (minutes) Anna Alexander, Peter Wolverton, Piers Voisey, Lynne Matthews, Peter Caunt, Karen Grant, Janet Lambert, Scott Wilson, Jonathan Dale, Donald McPhillimy, Nick Sneller, Maria Geyer, Sally Curtis, Tony Carter, Senga Bate, Ben Bate, Les Bates, Helen Armstrong, David Stitchfield, Georgina Stichfield, Peter Cunningham, Ruby Alba, Jackie Cumberbirch, Lizzie Beuer, Beryl Bannister, John Bannister, Rachel Avery, Mandy Meikle, Jude Dunn, Emma Chapman, David Jamieson, Mandy Haggith, David Somervell, Mary Scott, Theodora Bayly, Liz Murdoch, Susan Finlay, Collette Emma Hudson.

Apologies: Gordon Bruce, Violet Shannon, Sally Wilkin, Georgina Smith, Peter and Rosemary Dood, Tim Godfrey, Sara Hunt, Anna Lawrence, Toni Dickson, Bernard Planterose.

1 Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2014, held at Broadford, Skye, approved by meeting, Proposed by Anna Alexander and seconded by Rachel Avery.

2 Directors' Report

1000 Huts, with Ninian Stuart coordinating and Donald McPhillimy and Karen Grant as contractors, is flourishing. The FCS site at Carnack Wood in West Fife is progressing to the planning stage and it is hoped to establish 10 - 12 huts there, with one dedicated to educational/community use. The Guidelines for Planning and for accommodating Building Regulations that are being developed by Bernard Planterose and Peter Caunt will be of practical use, not just for this site but for anyone thinking of building a hut.

Karen has done work on the health and well being aspects of hutting and has a large body of supporters. However, more funding is needed and crowd-sourcing is being considered.

StarTree

Emma Chapman and Toni Dickson as contractors have completed several work packages, including surveying the supply chain for mushrooms and for honey, and looking in depth at how a successful business based on wild berries works. The next but one StarTree international meeting will be held in Bangor from 25-27 May 2016, and it is hoped to have a substantial RS presence.

Journal, Radical Rowan and website 2014-15 held our 50th Journal, a collector's item with articles by George Monbiot and Andy Wightman amongst many others of excellence put together by Mandy Meikle; and our 51st, with stories from the West. Two full copies of the Radical Rowan were circulated (primarily electronically) thanks to the labours of Sally Macpherson. The website continues to be developed, with input from Emma Chapman, Alan Carter and others.

Membership is over 500 and growing, with a list that has now been pruned of lapsed subscribers who were not paying for their journals. It was suggested that some of those who follow the RS and the 1000 Huts Facebook pages might be converted to RS membership.

Constitution: the amendments agreed at a previous GM have been passed by OSCR and came into effect on 1 Oct this year.

Administrator

Paul Ritchie was thanked for his careful attention to RS accounts, mailing lists and general administration.

Financial Report

Paul Ritchie presented his report and accounts and noted that the contribution of approximately £6000 by Lush shops has stabilized RS finances.

3 Independent Examiners

Patterson Boyd were reelected to oversee RS accounts, proposed by Sally Curtis and seconded by Fi Martynoga.

4 Directors

Ninian Stuart stood down and was duly re-elected, proposed by Donald McPhillimy and seconded by Nick Sneller. An appeal was made for more Directors, particularly one with financial experience who could become our new Treasurer.

Note: after the meeting the appeal was answered by Ben Bate, a recently retired accountant, who

will be co-opted to become Treasurer, and Julian Holbrook, who will be co-opted and brings a particular interest in the proposed Scotland Study Tour.

5 Any Other Business

Sally Curtis offered to help set up next year's Gathering and proposed Comrie Croft as a venue. Emma Chapman proposed that the meeting send its best wishes to Alan Carter for his speedy recovery and was seconded by all.

RS ceilidhs, to be held by the Ceilidh Collective at the Steiner School in Edinburgh:

Sat 7 th Nov

Feb/March date to be arranged

Karen Grant suggested RS should consider a beautifully designed sweatshirt so that members can identify themselves when at appropriate events.