

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Reforesting Scotland

Comrie Croft, Crieff PH7 4JZ on Sunday 15th October 2017

Members present;

Anna	Alexander	Susan	Finlay	Nicky	Penford
Crinan	Alexander	Eleanor	Garty	Paul	Ritchie
Helen	Armstrong	Karen	Grant	John	Rowlands
Rachel	Avery	Barbra	Harvie	Georgina	Smith
Sandra	Baer	Clare	Haworth	Nick	Sneller
Benedict	Bate	Crispin	Hayes	Olly	Stephenson
Senga	Bate	Tony	Henry	Ninian	Stuart
Les	Bates	Colette	Hudson	Georgina	Stutchfield
Karen	Birch	Mike	Hyatt	David	Stutchfield
Christopher	Boam	David	Jamieson	Piers	Voysey
Tony	Carter	Frank	Ledwith	Valerie	Wardlaw
Annie	Casey	Sally	Macpherson	Scott McG	Wilson
Lynn	Cassells	Fi	Martynoga	Galena	Woodhouse
Peter	Caunt	Lynne	Matthews	Peter	Woolverton
Hugh	Chalmers	Sian	McKinnon	Andrew	Thompson
Emma	Chapman	Donald	McPhillimy	Bernard	Planterose
Paul	Comacchio	Mandy	Meikle	Marek	Wasniewski
Mireille	Crocco	Elizabet			
Peter	Cunningham	h	Murdoch		
Mick	Drury	Adrian	Muscutt		
Jude	Dunn	Hamish	Neilson		

Non-members present; Tom Ovenden, Sven Rasmussen, Petra Vergunst, David Carruth

Apologies; Alan Carter, John Bannister

In the absence of Alan Carter the meeting was chaired by Sally Macpherson. Sally opened the AGM by extending a welcoming to all present.

1. The minutes of the 2016 AGM held at Well Road Centre, Moffat were Proposed by Rachel Avery and seconded by Karen Grant
2. Sally read the **Chair's report**;

This last year has been something of a turning point for Reforesting Scotland. The Thousand Huts campaign has had landmark achievements in getting regulations changed and has laid the foundations for a new hutting movement. With this success

comes responsibility as we have been asked to write the official good practice guide which will define a hut for planning and building standards.

We also successfully delivered our end of 'StarTree', a Europe-wide research collaboration on non-timber forest products. As well as giving us the opportunity to do some useful work such as improving the Scottish Working Woods certification label for small businesses, StarTree has produced a range of tools for managing and assessing woods for non-timber products that we will be looking at how to put into practice. While it lasted, StarTree was a financial risk for Reforesting Scotland, but with the final payment from the EU this risk has turned into a healthy surplus. With continuing funding from the bag tax from Lush, we are now in the position of having enough money to fund projects ourselves rather than always relying on being able to find external funding. This gives us a new flexibility and at the same time a new appetite for fresh ideas and directions. The directors are working on a number of ideas but for me the strength of Reforesting Scotland has always been in its network of diverse people energised by a broad vision and the ideas that come through this network. Finally, the rapid growth of the Rewilding movement, calling for the kind of landscape-level restoration that Reforesting Scotland has always championed, means a new, much larger audience for our ideas. One challenge will be finding ways of connecting and communicating with this new audience.

The finance director, Benedict Bate, spoke to the accounts. Ben reiterated some of the points in Alan's report and indicated that whilst the Report and Accounts being presented today looked at the year to 31st March 2017 it was important that the directors looked forward also. Due to the diligent work by the Coordinator collecting subscriptions, the monies received from the Star Tree project, the monies received annually from Lush and the fact that there were no committed fixed costs and directors were parsimonious with the funds, Reforesting Scotland was financially in good heart.

The Financial Report and accounts were proposed by Hugh Chalmers and seconded by Nicky Penford and carried *nem. con.*

Hugh Chalmers wished that the minutes record the work done on Star Tree by Emma Chapman, Sally Macpherson and Fi Martynoga.

3. The proposal to re-appoint the independent examiners: Patterson Boyd, 18 North St, Glenrothes, Fife was proposed by Mandy Meikle and seconded by Fi Martynoga and carried *nem. con.*
4. Any other business.

Membership – Olly Stevenson introduced the proposed changes indicating they were part of a drive to increase membership. The proposal from the directors to simplify membership categories by removing overseas membership was proposed by Liz Murdoch and seconded by Fi Martynoga and carried *nem. con.* The proposal to allow directors to make membership offers from time to time was proposed by Senga Bate and seconded by Barbra Harvie and carried *nem. con.*

Directors – Sally Macpherson, as the longest serving director, resigned and stated she did not wish to be re-elected. The application to become a Director from Amanda Calvert was proposed by Ninian Stewart and seconded by Sally Macpherson and carried *nem. con.*

Olly Stevenson who had been co-opted onto the board during 2016/17 resigned and put himself forward for re-election, proposed by Mandy Meikle and seconded by Nicky Penford and passed *nem. con.*

From the floor Annie Casey and Lynn Cassells each introduced themselves and offered to become directors. (Following the meeting Fiona Chalmers offered her services as a director). Each were welcomed and thanked by the chair and were subsequently co-opted at the next meeting of the directors.

Catering – rapturous thanks were given to, Tiril Planterose, Dorian Braun and Emma Planterose Magenta, for their wonderful catering over the weekend, by all those attending the AGM.

30th Anniversary of Reforesting Scotland Emma Planterose Magenta, indicated that she was keen to help organise an event to mark this imminent anniversary probably at Isle Martin, Nr Ullapool which was the birthplace of Reforesting Scotland and would liaise with the directors.

Presentation to Sally Macpherson – to mark her retirement as a director of Reforesting Scotland and in recognition of the excellent work she had delivered over the years, Nicky Penford presented a memento to Sally, by way of thanks from the directors and members of Reforesting Scotland.

The AGM was declared closed at 1000am.