



HIGHLAND PERTSHIRE COMMUNITIES LAND TRUST

Minutes of Annual General Meeting, Pitlochry, The Tryst, Saturday 15th April 2023 14:00

Note: Before the AGM started there was a short presentation at which a donation was made to HPCLT by two schoolchildren who had grown trees from seed. The small trees had been sold and they wished to donate the proceeds to HPCLT. This was very much appreciated by all in attendance!

1. Apologies

Fiona Danks, Robin Swinton, Willie McGhee, Elizabeth Nicholson, Lou Radford Oppenheim, Heather Rees, Colin McLeod, Colin Mackintosh, Ann Macintosh, Peter Ely.

2. Introductory Remarks

The Chair thanked everyone involved with HPCLT – the members, supporters, Heather and Fred (now both employees, of course), all our many and varied advisors and the trustees, our training partners and of course our funders. In addition, the Chair thanked the wonderful cadre of volunteers for all their enthusiasm and hard work!

The Chair thanked HPCLT's funders including:

- The Gannochy Trust
- SSE's Griffin & Calliachar Community Fund
- The Robertson Trust
- The Hugh Fraser Foundation
- The Nineveh Trust
- The Basil Death Trust
- The Robertson Trust
- The John Muir Trust

Our thanks are also due to all our partners in the Heart of Scotland Forest Partnership.

The Chair said that it had been a privilege to have been Chair for the last 3 years, but that he would now be standing down.

3. Approval of the Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting (previously distributed)

Approved (Proposed: Bill Hoare, Seconded: Mandy Carver)

4. Matters Arising

None.

5. Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 The Chair reported that the Trust has managed to raise £207,000 of the £217,000 needed to fund the Positive Destinations Programme over 3 years. This has been a tremendous achievement by all concerned.

However, the Trust faces increasing competition for grant funding, particularly for rural skills and training, going forward. The next few years will be very challenging for us.

We should be proud of what we have achieved – **Positive Destinations** continues to make a significant difference for a number of young folk in our communities.

Thanks are due to Heather and Fred for all their dedication and hard work.

The Annual Report shows that wildlife and plant species continue flourish. I have it on good authority that five hen harriers had been spotted over DC last week!

The Accounts had been distributed and questions were invited. Tim Ambrose, the Independent Financial Examiner, was invited to comment on the Trust's financial position. He commended the work of Keith Myers and Jenny Minhinnick and noted that the Trust was in a good financial position. He said that he was satisfied that the Accounts represented a true and fair view of the financial position.

6. Approval of the Annual Report & Accounts

Proposed: Mike Earrey, Seconded: Isobel Filor

7. Retirement and Election of Trustees

The following trustees will be retiring:

Richard Rees
Bobby Wardle
Jeannie Grant
Douglas Woodrow (retiring; can be re-elected)

The Chair thanked Richard and Jeannie for all their efforts and hard work. Richard's work on getting the new membership system up and running had been carried out to a very high standard and had made a lasting difference to the administration of the Trust. Jeannie had been a valued Trustee and very helpful in the recruitment process that led to Fred's appointment.

The following trustees are eligible to be elected:

Andrew Walker:
Proposed: John Marshall, Seconded: Fiona Danks

Isobel Filor
Proposed: Jeannie Grant, Seconded: Jez Robinson

Richard Paul
Proposed: John Marshall, Seconded: Fiona Danks

Donald Riddell
Proposed: Keith Myers, Seconded: Robin Swinton

Douglas Woodrow
Proposed: Jeannie Grant, Seconded: Jez Robinson

Since there are more vacancies than nominations, an election is not necessary. The Chair will send the completed new director forms to J & H Mitchell.

The Chair paid tribute to Margaret Jarvis who sadly died at the start of 2022. Margaret was a HPCLT stalwart and acted as Trustee, Treasurer, botanist, tree planter, cake maker, minutes secretary, and much more throughout the following 20 years. She was made an Honorary Life Member in 2016. Many thanks to Bill Hoare for his moving tribute to Margaret. In memory of Margaret a tree planting day was held last May, where friends and family gathered. Our condolences to her family.

The Chair also paid tribute to Bill Hoare who will be moving with Sue to pastures new later this year. On a personal note, the Chair thanked Bill for his help and support as a Trustee and as Chair. The Trust owes Bill a huge debt of gratitude for all his hard work carried out with great diligence. Bill is also a huge repository of the history and lore of the Trust over the last 20 years and will be missed by all.

Rob Coope, ecologist and deer manager left us at the end of March after many years of service to the Trust. On behalf of the Trust the Chair has expressed our appreciation for all the work he and his son Thomas did over the years.

8. Fixing the Annual Subscriptions

Subscriptions to be kept at current levels, pending a review of the subscriptions.

9. Appointment of the Independent Financial Examiner

Tim Ambrose was thanked for his efforts over many years. He is willing to continue and was duly reappointed. (Proposed: John Marshall, Seconded: Julie Gardiner)

10. Any Other Competent Business

- a. Our bookkeeper Jenny Minhinnick is leaving us and the Chair thanked her for all her diligent efforts over the last year. Liz Elworthy was introduced to the meeting and has kindly agreed to take over the role.

The formal part of the AGM was adjourned at 14:25.

The Chair introduced the Guest Speaker, Peter Cairns of Scotland - The Big Picture who gave a fascinating talk on Rewilding and his charity's role in the advocacy of a number of significant

ecological restoration projects in the Scottish Highlands and beyond. A lively question and answer session then followed. Thanks were expressed for Peter's clear and inspirational presentation.

--end