

## **Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland**

### **Annual General Meeting Minutes**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016, commencing at 7.30pm in the Aultbea Hall  
Upper meeting room

#### **Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed those present.

Documents made available on the night for public scrutiny were – Memorandum and Articles of Association, Woodland Management Plan 2013 -2024, Accounts 2015 – 2016, Harvesting Project 2016 Compartment 4 clear fell, AGM minutes 2015 and the Agenda for the evening.

Mr. Matt Thompson of Munro Harvesting, Dingwall was present to answer questions on the harvesting operation

A quorum having been achieved the meeting opened at 1935

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Kevin Ginty, and Nick Murray

#### **Present**

John Rippin, Peter Jarosz, Tony Carpenter, Janet Barclay, Aidan Bell and 7 members of the public of which 6 were members.

#### **Approval of last year's AGM minutes**

Subject to a minor correction by PJ the minutes were accepted

Proposed: Sylvia Foster

Seconded: Julian Duggan

#### **Chairman's Report**

JR gave reasons for changing the format slightly from last year and pointed out the various aids available explaining the harvesting process to be dealt with in detail later in the evening. He explained the weather had been kind over the past twelve months compared to previous years allowing us to achieve more in the way of improvements with comparatively little time taken up with storm damage, this allowed us to free up the yellow trail long overdue, carry out improvements to the water cascade area and start early preparations for another firewood sale in November, this on the back of a very successful firewood sale last year.

The only disappointment after such hard work by JB to create an interesting events program for 2016 was the weather which had been so good in the early part of year but did turn wet for a considerable time during our events season, affecting attendance on two occasions and resulting in the Electro fishing day being cancelled.

All in all, the chairman summed up by saying it had been another successful year.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

PJ gave a detailed explanation of the accounts, copies of which were available to everyone present emphasizing the need for a healthy contingency fund which we continue to achieve.

Income from membership was already coming in for year 2016 -2017 and the membership numbers were still healthy.

The sale of firewood last November was a considerable boost to funds which will help us purchase

improvements in the form of materials and equipment and had turned the bi product of storm damage into a valuable resource.

Finally he spoke to the difficulty in obtaining grant funding in today's austere financial climate and couldn't see the situation changing in the near future although we will always seek out any funding available.

#### **New Directors**

Aidan Bell appointed by the Board of Directors during the past year to retire and be re-appointed by the membership this evening in accordance with Memorandum and articles of association, article 37

#### **Retirement of Directors**

Nick Murray and Janet Barclay as the longest serving Directors since re-appointment, are retiring by rotation in accordance with Memorandum and articles of association, articles 31 and 32.

#### **Re-appointment of Directors**

Resolution 1-2015/16 proposed by Kevin Ginty and seconded by John Rippin, that Nick Murray and Janet Barclay and be re-appointed as Directors of Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland and Trustees of the Charity.

Carried unanimously.

#### **Reinstatement of Office Bearers**

Resolution 2- 2015/16 proposed by Tony Carpenter and seconded by Nick Murray, that John Rippin in the capacity of Chairman, Alan Turnbull in the capacity of Company Secretary and Peter Jarosz in the capacity of Treasurer be retained as office Bearers for a further year.

Carried unanimously.

#### **Accounts 2015/16**

Resolution 3 - 2015/16. Proposed by Peter Jarosz and seconded by Alan Turnbull (Absent) that the accounts for the year ending March 2014 be accepted by the membership as true and accurate record of our income and expenditure to date.

Carried unanimously.

#### **New Director**

Resolution 4 – 2015/2106

Proposed by Alan Turnbull (absent) and seconded by Janet Barclay that Aidan Bell re-appointed as a director of Laide and Aultbea Community Woodland and a Trustee of the Charity.

Carried unanimously.

The Chairman declared the formal part of the AGM closed.

Aidan Bell gave an introduction to Laide Woodlanders a new environmental and Forestry initiative aimed at younger participants, which he had started on Saturdays. This would open up a place in the development of the woodland for people who were keen to help and interested in the environmental aspect of the wood and not the heavier forestry element involved.

Finally we had an open discussion on the upcoming harvesting operation the Clear Felling of Compartment 4 due to commence on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

Matt Thompson answered any technical questions from the floor and the directors in attendance.

Refreshments were served whilst we continued an informal general discussion and the evening was closed at 2100 hours.