

Newtonmore Community Woodland & Development Trust

A registered company limited by guarantee No. 182213 • Registered in Scotland: Charity No. 27576

Chair Paul Woolrich • **Tel** 01540673131 • **Email** wildcatnewtonmore@yahoo.com

The Wildcat Centre, Main Street, Newtonmore, Inverness-shire, PH20 1DD

Approved minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 30th April 2019

The meeting was preceded by a presentation from Sue Thomas on the wild flowers of Newtonmore.

Present:

Paul Woolrich (Chair), Eric Dodd (Treasurer), Paul Allan (Secretary), Mark Thomas, Sue Thomas, Lesley Allan, Jean Noble, Jean Slimon, Lady Machperson, Colin Macphail, Carole Gutteridge, Ron Gutteridge, Denise Kozub, Lillias Noble, Jim Hall, Amanda Frazer, Douglas Macintyre

1. Apologies

Roy Alexander, Sheila Paisley, Ian Gibson, Jude Craig, Bruce Stewart, Mary Stewart, John Russell, Isla Russell

2. Minutes of the AGM of 10th April 2018

Minutes were distributed at the meeting. They were approved without amendment on a motion by Mark Thomas, seconded by Sue Thomas.

3. Chair's Report

A copy of the Chair's report was distributed at the meeting.

Paul Woolrich highlighted a few points in his report namely:

Changes to the Board; he had taken over as Chair following Douglas Macintyre's resignation as Chair last year. Douglas today resigned as a Trustee and Paul thanked him for all his work with the Trust. Paul also thanked Jim Hall (who resigned as a Trustee and Secretary last year), Adrian Pearman and Will Carey who also resigned earlier this year.

The Wildcat Centre has had another busy year with visitor numbers up again. Thanks to Lesley Allan and her team of volunteers for keeping the Centre running so smoothly and also organising occasional fundraising and community events.

The Woodland Management Plan is subject to ongoing discussions with the Pitmain Estate following a change of ownership of the estate which resulted in the agreement, drawn up some 18 years ago, with the previous owners, Glen Banchor Estate, being effectively null and void. There have been changes of Factor which has complicated matters but the intention is to pursue this matter urgently.

The Trust intends to continue to use the Community Payback Scheme to help with the ongoing maintenance of the Wildcat Trail. This approach has widespread approval.

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Survival of the Scottish Wildcat; Paul mentioned the recent announcements about the Scottish Wildcat being on the verge of extinction. The Trust intends to be represented at the Scottish Wildcat Action Project forum planned for later this year.

A full copy of the Chair's report is lodged at the Wildcat Centre.

4. Financial report and Audited Statement

A summary of the trading account for the financial year to 31st January was distributed at the meeting. Eric Dodd (Treasurer) spoke to the report and advised that the Trust continues to show a trading deficit but the good news is that our deficit this year has been reduced to £1,807 (last year it was £2,216). The Centre income is up and our charitable costs are down.

However the bad news is that our reserves are continuing to reduce and we cannot sustain any more significant loss in reserves. For the past three years we have benefited from the Isobel Parker Charitable Fund with an annual donation of £2,500. We will not receive any further funding from this Fund. Also, the Foundation Scotland Grant for 2019 has been reduced from £1,429 to £700.

Eric Dodd reported a substantial increase in membership subscriptions for 2019 and also an increase in voluntary donations at the time of membership renewal. Colin Macphail asked about income from membership subscriptions for 2018 which was confirmed as £330 from 66 members.

5. Membership Fee

After general discussion it was unanimously agreed that the annual subscription should be increased to £10 per person from 2020.

6. Questions from the floor

Denise Kozub mentioned the (seemingly deliberate) damage to the handrail on the Calder Path. The Chair advised that this matter had been reported to the Trust and our next action would be discussed at the Trustees meeting immediately following the AGM. Colin Machpail suggested that the matter ought to be referred to the police.

7. Election or re-election of Trustees

Three formal nominations had been received; the re-election of Mark Thomas and Paul Allan and a new (returning) trustee Jim Hall. All were accepted with no dissensions.

8. Any other business

None