

**Minutes of the Reforesting Scotland Annual General Meeting on Sunday 25th
October 2020 at 7.30 pm**

The meeting took place using Zoom and the following members were present

Alan Carter - Chair	Matt Hay	Liz Murdoch
Ben Bate	Nicky Penford	Nicky Hume
Al Whitworth	Amanda Calvert	Paul Ritchie
Pat Bryden	Alan Reeder	Sally Macpherson
Anna Alexander	Dee Orłowska	Helen Armstrong
Donald McPhillimy		
Apologies	Fi Martynoga	

Non member attending; Olly Craigan

- 1) The minutes of the 2019 AGM held at Dounans Centre, Aberfoyle were approved

- 2) Alan Carter welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that full names be on show on screen and then reported on the activities of Reforesting Scotland indicating that in this year of two halves, the majority of the year to 31st March 2020 was unaffected by Covid restrictions and Reforesting Scotland had been fortunate in the timing of the successful Hutters' Rally in Dundee in February which had brought much energy to the process. The organisation continues to support ecology and conservation in Scotland and to that end during the financial year had made a donation to Borders Forest Trust, continued with the Student Bursary Scheme, although this was affected by Covid restrictions preventing some students carrying out the primary research. The tree planting fund continued to pay out small amounts and Jan Cameron's book The Garden Cure book was part funded by Reforesting Scotland. The 2019 annual Gathering in Aberfoyle was highly successful, however the 2020 Gathering will be online. The continuance of the Land Revival tour was curtailed by Covid as was progress with hutting although Reforesting Scotland remain committed to these, particularly the Carnock project and the Falkland Simple Shelters initiative. Following changes at director level a renewed hutting group had been formed.

Due to Covid Reforesting Scotland's usual printer of the Journal was forced to close temporarily and the Journal was made available online. Subsequently the printers closed permanently, however a new printer has been engaged and two editions of the Journal are currently in the post to members.

Other activities include a revised website thanks to Al Whitworth, a monthly directors' blog on issues of importance, media activity on Reforesting Scotland's Facebook Pages and Twitter which included a petition to Scottish Government against the killing of beavers in Scotland. Alan concluded by saying that Covid appears not to be going away and we all must adapt.

- 3) Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2020 – Ben Bate reported that there was a bank balance of £67,547 at the year end and whilst lower now the finances were healthy. As predicted at last year's AGM Reforesting Scotland ran a deficit in 2019/20 with income of £62,362 and expenditure of £86,182 giving an overall deficit of £23,820. Income was lower in 2020 than 2019 mainly due to fewer grants and donations and expenditure was down partly due to Covid restrictions. Ben reminded the meeting that while subscriptions are marginally up on 2019 every opportunity should be taken to encourage like minded folk to join Reforesting Scotland which is easy to do via the website.
- 4) The independent examiners: Patterson Boyd, 18 North St, Glenrothes, Fife were reappointed.
- 5) Appointment of directors; J Finn Weddle and Al Whitworth were co-opted as directors since the last AGM and as required by the constitution they are now standing down and offering themselves for election at the meeting. They were both duly elected.

This year Ben Bate as the longest serving director is standing down and not offering himself for re-election and was thanked for his contribution over the years and was presented, remotely, with a carved bowl as a memento from the board.

Anna Alexander had notified the Secretary of her wish to stand as a director and was duly appointed by the meeting.

- 6) Any other business. There was none.