

# Minutes of the Reforesting Scotland Annual General Meeting

## on Sunday 9th October 2022 at 9.30am

The meeting took place in the Corran Halls, Oban, and the following were present:

Nicky Penford, Anna Alexander, Liz Murdoch, Al Whitworth, Phil Knott (Directors)  
Alan Carter (Co-ordinator)

Fi Martynoga, T Kenny, Elizabeth Johnson, Andrew Johnson, Adrian Scott, Peter Caunt, Robert Sproul-Cran, Jennifer Sands, Tuula Pardoe, Donald McPhillimy, Nick Sneller, Maria Meyer, Kati Kärki, Benjamin Townsend, Susan Finlay, Ben Slattery, Dorothy Dahl, Mia Lalanne, Ed Tyler, Carine Spink, Tony Henry, Mandy Meikle, Lynne Matthews, Iain Matthews, Lesley Morrison, Ben Bate, Jayne Hunt, Gordon Bruce, Danuta (Dee) Orłowska, Dylan Fogarty-MacDonald (Members)

Jessica Kerr (non-member)

Apologies: Matt Hay, Amanda Calvert and Gus Routledge

1. The minutes of the 2021 AGM, held on Zoom, on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021, were approved.
2. Alan Carter welcomed everyone to the AGM, and reported on the activities during the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Coppicing - RS has been supporting the coppice network for some time, and our group is now part of the National Coppice Federation, the biggest of its regional groups. Huts – there are now folk building their own huts at Carnock. The Hut of Wellbeing is also supported by RS. RS works through networks – this year, particularly, with the Alliance of Scotland’s Rainforests. The Scottish Rewilding Alliance is now set up and is a large network.

Communications – Mandy and the Journal Team have produced some particularly fine journals - thanks to them and their team. Our Facebook groups have generated much discussion, particularly about Huts. RS contributes to consultations on various things – from the reintroduction of beavers to land reform.

There have been big changes in directors. Two longstanding directors are standing down – Nicky Penford and Liz Murdoch. Thanks to both of them for their hard work and commitment. Paul Ritchie, who had been our co-ordinator for 7 years, left and we wish him all the best. Alan has taken on this role and has therefore stepped down as a director and Chair. RS thanked Alan for his years of being chair. Phil Knott, a crofter, who works for UHI running a Countryside skills course, has been co-opted. Not only the Board, but other working groups, have been busy throughout the year – the Journal working group, the Hut of Wellbeing steering group, the Huts group at Carnock and Facebook discussion groups which rely on moderators. Thanks to Donald for moderating.

Another change has been with the Journal. Our longstanding designer Karen Grant has left, and the last two issues have been designed by Nicole Channon. Thanks to Karen for her many years of imaginative designing. Mandy Meikle asked if anybody knew a shop that would sell our magazine – we are always looking for new outlets and advertisers.

3. Anna Alexander reported on the Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Income for the year increased, both for donations and charitable activities, though expenditure also up, leading to a smaller deficit in unrestricted funds £544, from £1,571. RS ended this financial year with £85,094 (up from £63,315) in the bank, made up of £24,064 restricted funds for the Hut of Wellbeing, and

£61,030 unrestricted funds. Restricted funds included the 1000 Huts campaign, which has been supported by RS over the last 2 years. The Hut of Wellbeing has attracted £24,464 of income and has only spent £400 (to end of March).

The year to 31/3/21 was our year of lockdown, with a virtual Gathering, so last year's event was a tentative step back to what we hope will be a new series of live events for our members.

Members' subscriptions increased from £26,936 to £29,071. Advertising & sponsorship from £4,329 to £6,336. Unsurprisingly, bank interest has gone down.

A huge thank you to Paul Ritchie for helping to prepare these accounts and we wish him all the best for the future.

The Journal continues to be a strong asset, with highly professional articles from a wide number of sources, and deserves a wider audience. So healthy for now, but we always welcome new members and new ideas. Thanks to all our members for their continuing support.

4. The independent examiners: Patterson Boyd, 18 North Street, Glenrothes, were approved.
5. Appointment of Directors: Phil Knott had been co-opted since the last AGM. He was duly elected. Amanda Calvert, as the longest serving director, is standing down and offering herself for re-election. She was duly elected.
6. A.O.B. - None