

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

 **Held on Tuesday 25th January 2022 at 6pm**
**Via Zoom, Hosted at Parkhill House, Arbroath, Angus**

**Present**

Martin Beard (Chair)

Rosemary Champion

Martin Beard

Anne Massie

Dee Tippett

**Apologies**

Ian Craig

Grant Reid

Nicola Cook

Dan Champion

Arnot Tippett

Jackie Beard

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|  | Agenda Point | Action |
| **1.** | Welcome and ApologiesMartin Beard opened the meeting, welcomed all those in attendance and noted the apologies as above also detailing where proxies had been received, confirming that the meeting was considered quorate. |  |
| ***2.*** | Approval of Previous MinuteThe Minute of the 2020 AGM was reviewed. There were no amendments noted and the minute was proposed by Martin Beard and seconded by Rosemary Champion and was approved as a true reflection of the meeting. |  |
| ***3.*** | Report by the Chair of the Board of TrusteesMartin confirmed that the focus of the charity were now absolutely linked to the Scottish Smallholder Festival and that this had become the only activity of the Charity going forward. Despite all the challenges of Covid 19, it was a triumphant return for the Festival to Forfar last October, and that almost 1000 tickets were booked in advance of the start. The Festival has an aim to inform, educate and entertain and it clearly achieved that and the feedback was universally positive.Martin also informed the meeting about the “virtual” element which was possibly a step too far, not necessarily achieving the aims of taking the message of the Festival to a wider audience. It was noted that there were some technical challenges with the virtual event.Martin also highlighted the extremely good team that had now formed in order to produce the Festival, which was now already working on the 2022 event. This team deserves huge credit for delivering a fantastic event that was now an important part of the Scottish Agricultural landscape.The meeting also noted the incredible support that the Charity had received from the Scottish Government, without whose financial support it would have been impossible to run.Martin was delighted to inform the meeting that the Government has pledged to support the Festival for a further four years up to October 2025. Martin thanked his fellow trustees for their support for another year. |  |
| ***4.*** | **The meeting considered special resolution one as detailed below:**“This meeting approves the proposal by the Trustees to amend the purpose of the Charity as follows:The Trustees propose to remove purpose 4.3 in its entirety, leaving the organisations purpose solely focused on education of smallholders and the general public. The Trustees contend that this will enable them to focus all efforts on the Scottish Smallholder Festival which will become the only activity of the Charity. This will leave the constitution of the Charity to read: **“4. The organisation’s purposes are:** **• 4.1.  to advance the education of the general public in relation to smallholding and its public benefit.** **• 4.2.  to advance the education of existing and prospective smallholders”**The meetingempowers the Trustees to take whatever actions are required in this regard, including the statutory obligation to involve the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator in the change of purpose”**The resolution was proposed by Martin Beard, seconded by Anne Massie, and was passed unanimously** |  |
| ***5.*** | **Consideration of Annual Accounts**1. **Trustee Statement to OSCR**

Anne Massie tabled the report which was available.  1. **Annual Treasurer’s Report**

Annie tabled the Treasurer’s Report for this year and was pleased to note the surplus of c£4k at the end of the year which should make a large difference to cash flow at the time of the Festival. Both elements were approved by the meeting. |  |
| ***6.*** | **The meeting considered special resolution 2**“This meeting approves the proposal by the Trustees to waive the membership subscription until January 2024.”**The resolution was proposed by Martin Beard, seconded by Dee Tippet, and was passed unanimously** |  |
| ***7.*** | **The meeting considered special resolution 3**“This meeting approves the proposal by the Trustees to amend the constitution of the Charity as follows:The Trustees propose to amend article 55 of the constitution which requires the Board of Trustees to have a minimum of 6 trustees. Given a lack of volunteers, it is not possible for the charity to meet this requirement, and the Trustees therefore recommend this is amended to a minimum of 3 trustees. This will leave the constitution of the Charity to read: 1. **“**The minimum number of charity trustees is 3”.

**.**The Trustees also propose that the articles on Election, retiral and re-election (articles 59-62) be suspended for the next two years to ensure that the Board can continue to function. The meetingempowers the Trustees to take whatever actions are required in this regard, including the statutory obligation to involve the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator”**The resolution was proposed by Anne Massie, seconded by Rosemary Champion and was passed unanimously** |  |
| ***8*** | **AOCB** No other competent business was tabled, Martin thanked the attendees for their input and their continued support and looked forward to seeing them all again next year. There being no further business, the meeting was closed.  |  |