

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**Held on Tuesday 6th June 2023 at 6pm**  
**Via Zoom, Hosted at Parkhill House, Arbroath, Angus**

**Present**

Martin Beard (Chair)

Dan Champion

Anne Massie

Dee Tippett

Vera Steele

Alan Jamieson

John Bennett

**Apologies**

Caroline Scott

Suzanne Meikle

Gail Beattie

Mary Bruce

Dorothy Ritchie

Douglas Coulter

Agnes Aitken

Rosemary Champion

Arnot Tippett

Sally Ann Jackson

Anne Aitchison

Carol Anderson

Heather Munro

Moyra Simpson

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|  | Agenda Point | Action |
| **1.** | Welcome and Apologies Martin 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 Minute The Minute of the 2022 AGM was reviewed. There were no amendments noted and the minute was proposed by Anne Massie and seconded by Dee Tippett and was approved as a true reflection of the meeting. |  |
| ***3.*** | Report by the Chair of the Board of Trustees Martin updated the meeting on two areas: the Scottish Smallholder Festival and the Small Producers Pilot Fund Steering Group.  The demise of Forfar Mart has led the project team on a journey to try and find an alternative venue. Of the many suggestions made, the team considered two in detail, but felt that there was one outstanding opportunity. This is the Highland Hall at the Royal Highland Centre, which is a venue that offers a range of advantages, namely size, location, practicality and importantly purpose – hosting the Smallholder Festival in the same location as the Royal Highland Show will be a considerable boost to the status of smaller producers and the show itself.  As you may guess the issue we are facing is that the site does not come cheap, and so we have been working with our primary supporter, the Scottish Government, asking them to underwrite the commercial risk to the Charity. We are working with them with a plan to run the event in the Highland Hall each October for the next 3 years. For 2023 the event will run on the 14th October. We believe that this will enable us to attract much larger public attendance and competitive entry; our aim is to do this whilst retaining the ethos and feel of the event, which has always been driven by the interests and needs of smallholders, as well as a desire to keep a welcoming and friendly atmosphere.  The move to the Highland Hall will mean the reintroduction of ticket fees to visit the event, although we intend to keep the cost of entry for competitors at the same level as current. We are confident that the site will enable us to attract a wide range of trade stands, caterers, rural skills entries and demonstrations. We will enjoy support from a number of Scottish institutions such as Event Scotland and Visit Scotland, as well as the RHASS. We will never lose sight of our mission to “Inform, Educate and Inspire”.  The second point to discuss relates to the Small Producers Pilot Fund Steering group which Smallholding Scotland are part of. This is hopeful for smaller producers and is indicative of the fact the Government seems to be wanting to work with people like us. |  |
| ***4.*** | **Consideration of Annual Accounts**   1. **Accounts**   Anne Massie tabled the accounts and the independent examiners note     1. **Annual Treasurer’s Report**   Annie gave a verbal report including the need to produce a more detailed view of the Festival next year as it gets bigger.  She was pleased to note the balance of c£5.5k at the end of the year  There were no questions on the Accounts and they were therefore approved by the meeting. |  |
| ***5.*** | **The meeting considered special resolution one as detailed below:**  This meeting is being asked to approve the proposal by the Trustees to amend special resolution two from the 2022 AGM which read:  ***“This meeting approves the proposal by the Trustees to waive the membership subscription until January 2024.”***  The Trustees believe that the change in circumstances of the Charity and in particular the move of the Smallholder Festival brings with it an opportunity to reinvigorate membership of the Charity and to enable the Trustees to offer members real value for their support.  We would therefore ask the meeting to approve the following resolution:  **“This meeting agrees to set aside the terms of special resolution two from the AGM of 2022, and to empower the trustees to reinstate membership fees as and when appropriate.”**  **The resolution was proposed by Martin Beard, seconded by Anne Massie, and was passed unanimously** |  |
| ***6.*** | **Nomination of two new Trustees to the Board**   * 1. **Dee Tippett**   2. **Agnes Aitken**   **The nomination was proposed by Martin Beard, seconded by John Bennett, and was passed unanimously** |  |
| ***7*** | **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. |  |