

Annual General Meeting

3.45pm, 4th March, New County Hotel, Perth

Attending

Members:

Dr. Anne Winther
Rev Lorna Murray
Donald Campbell
Campbell Cameron
Grace Craigie
Sue Beer
Gordon Methven

Lindsay Chalmers on behalf of
Community Land Scotland
Alison MacLeod
Rory Dutton
Dorothy Dahl
Peter Dahl
Michael Gallagher

Paul Melling
Ian Munro
Bob Lee
Graham Fraser
Ed Archer

Members and Directors:

John Hutchison (Co-Chair)
Amanda Burgauer (Co-Chair)
Sandy Brunton
Rebecca Dawes

Angus Hardie
Maggie Gordon
Vanessa Halhead

Observers:

Emma Cooper
Francesca Harding
Dorothy Warren

Jackie Brierton
Bob Talbot
Fiona Selkirk

1. Welcome

John Hutchison welcomed all to the second Annual General Meeting of Scottish Rural Action and introduced Amanda Burgauer as his co-chair, and fellow Directors; Sandy Brunton, Angus Hardie, Maggie Gordon, Vanessa Halhead and Rebecca Dawes.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Niall Smith, Shona Wardrop, Ken Paterson and Derek Logie.

3. Minutes of 2015 AGM

Minutes of the AGM Friday 6th March 2015 were circulated. Grace Craigie proposed acceptance of the minutes as a true record of the AGM and Graham Fraser seconded.

4. Co-Chair report

John Hutchison gave his report as Co-Chair:

It has been an interesting year for Scottish Rural Action. Emma has outlined many of the key achievements and these boil down to around half a dozen key things. Firstly, we secured ongoing

funding from Scottish Government and sponsorship from CalMac for the 2016 Rural Parliament. Sincere thanks for the support from both organisations.

We attended the Royal Highland Show with some mixed benefits. Our stand was not in the best location, but it gave us the opportunity to connect with the new MPs especially those with a rural brief and forge important new connections. We attended a variety of other events too, connecting with the public and other decision-makers and influencers.

I was involved in the process for identifying the venue for the next Rural Parliament. It was an interesting time evaluating applications, interviewing two potential liaison groups and eventually deciding to go to Brechin in Angus.

The Summit in Musselburgh connected us with public bodies all across Scotland and the endorsement of our work from the First Minister was particularly important for us.

We have now concluded the election cycle we started last year, with all Directors from today onwards having been elected to the board rather than appointed by organisations such as Development Trusts Association Scotland and Community Land Scotland.

The decision to adopt a Scandinavian model and take a Co-Chair approach allows us to share the workload, represent a wider geographic diversity, and improves the rotation amongst the board. In my personal opinion, this should continue.

I have promoted the work of Scottish Rural Action and taken forward our Action Plan at a number of meetings and events, attending meetings with BT, the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, European Union Commission for Agricultural Policy amongst others and speaking at the Nordic Horizons events, Holyrood Conference and renewing local democracy events.

Amanda Burgauer gave her report as Co-Chair:

What a difference a year makes. I was elected as a director last year at the AGM and then the Co-Chair in August. I've learnt so much and had lots of opportunities, such as visiting the European Rural Parliament where we saw the different ways people are doing things and enjoyed some great networking. In fact, if you look around this room, and think about if we all used our networks we would collectively have so much power and influence. It has been great to represent Scottish Rural Action and spread the message wider.

5. Financial report and accounts of 2015

Amanda Burgauer reported to the meeting in her role as Chair of the Finance sub-committee. Abbreviated accounts were circulated with copies of the unabbreviated accounts available on request. Amanda Burgauer proposed that the AGM date be shifted to allow for the presentation of accounts more recent than those presented this year.

Amanda Burgauer called for questions.

Member commented that they were surprised by how little funding had been received. Amanda Burgauer responded that this will be one of the core functions of the board over the forthcoming year.

Member asked for clarification on the AGM dates. Amanda Burgauer responded that accounts for year-end March 2016 and year-end March 2017 would likely be presented at an AGM in July 2017.

Member asked when accounts get audited as they have only been given unaudited accounts. Amanda Burgauer responded that we do not have to produce audited accounts as a smaller company. The accounts have been Independently Examined.

6. Appointment of accountant

Wylie & Bisset were proposed as the accountants for Scottish Rural Action. Approved.

7. Appointment of directors

Emma Cooper reported to the meeting as the Returning Officer for the election of directors of Scottish Rural Action. The current directors are John Hutchison, Amanda Burgauer, Vanessa Halhead, Maggie Gordon, Angus Hardie, Niall Smith, Sandy Brunton, Rebecca Dawes. Retiring today are John Hutchison, Vanessa Halhead, Angus Hardie, Sandy Brunton and Rebecca Dawes leaving five places on the board of Directors. Five people were nominated by the membership as directors. These were Vanessa Halhead, Sandy Brunton, Rebecca Dawes, Sue Beer and Alison Macleod. As there were five nominations for five places, no voting was required. Emma Cooper asked if there were any objections to the appointment of the five nominated people. No objections were lodged. The five nominated people were duly elected to the board of Directors.

8. AOCB

John Hutchison asked if any member had any other business related to the Annual General Meeting to raise. None raised.