

**Minutes of the
Farm Woodland Forum
Annual General Meeting
22 June 2009
at National Forest Youth Hostel, Derbyshire**



Present: Peter Bottoms, Christine Braban, Paul Burgess (Secretary), David Corry, Jan Dick, John Holland (Treasurer), Lynton Incoll, Gerry Lawson (Chairman), Jim McAdam, Rodrigo Olave, David Pilbeam, Toddy Radford, Jane Robertson, Ian Short, Jo Smith, Mick Stephens, Mike Strachan (Vice Chairman), Greg Thexton, Martin Wolfe.

Apologies: Tom Dutson, Clive Keble, Keith Kirby, Alan Sibbald, Ian Tubby, Tony Waterhouse, Hugh Williams.

The meeting started at about 7.00 pm. Gerry Lawson chaired the meeting.

1) Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the AGM of 24 June 2008 held at the Weem, Aberfeldy, Perthshire, and posted on the Forum's website (www.agroforestry.ac.uk) were accepted as being a true record of the meeting.

2) Matters arising on the minutes

Initially the Chairman missed this section and each matter arising is covered below. One exception is that Paul Burgess reported that Tom Dutson had provided him with a contact list for future meetings.

3) Chairman's report

Gerry Lawson started the report of his final year as Chairman by saying that it was a very exciting time to be working across the interface of forestry and agriculture. The 2007-08 surge in fuel and commodity prices had increased the priority given to food and fuel security. The greater awareness of climate change and the importance of carbon sequestration also created opportunities for tree management on farms. There were developing research needs in relation to climate change, including issues such as wind firmness, and the potential of new species such as nothofagus and hybrid walnut.

Gerry also explained that there were exciting agroforestry developments across Europe. In England, the single farm payment could now be retained on new areas of farm woodland. Fabien Liagre's recent e-mail on 4 June 2009 explained that the French Government had decided to apply the agroforestry measure (article 44) within its Rural Development Programme. Gerry Lawson agreed that he would create a summary translation of the document.

Action: Gerry Lawson

At such a time, it seemed sensible to restart the discussion forum on agroforestry policy within Europe. *Postscript: On 30 June 2009, Gerry re-started a discussion on the Agroforestry Policy JISCmail website*

Action: Gerry Lawson

Newsletter: Gerry Lawson reported that Paul Burgess had led the completion of a write-up of the 2007 and the 2008 meetings and that these were now available on the Farm Woodland Forum website. It was hoped that a report on the 2009 meeting would soon be available.

Action: Gerry Lawson

Lynton Incoll asked about the Forum's responses to public consultations. Gerry replied that the Forum had not submitted a response to the Common Agricultural Policy Health Check in 2008. Mike Strachan noted that there was currently a review of Food and Drink Policy in Scotland.

Lynton also asked what was happening with other agroforestry groups in Europe. Gerry replied that the French were progressing with their French agroforestry group. Postscript: *Subsequent to the meeting, Gerry Lawson has purchased the www.agroforestry.eu web-address, and has started to populate it with information.* **Action: Gerry Lawson**

Lynton also asked for feedback on a number of e-mail addresses.

4) Secretary's report

Executive Committee

Paul Burgess reported that the Executive Committee had held meetings on 15 January 2009 and 19 June 2009.

JISCmail contact list and activity

As of 19 June 2009, there were 188 contacts on the Farm Woodland Forum JISCmail list, up two from last year. Use of the JISCmail service (58 postings) was up on last year (42 postings). The development of agroforestry in France and the use of red alders generated the most interest.

Charity Commission: Annual Return and Trustee Update Form

Paul Burgess reported that he had submitted the Charity Commission Annual Return and Trustee Update form on 3 March 2009.

Agroforestry in the Temperate Zone COST Proposal

Paul Burgess reported that the agroforestry COST (European COoperation in the field of Scientific and Technical research) had not advanced beyond the second stage.

Conference proceedings

Paul reported that he had obtained an abstract for each presentation at the meeting, and that these would be placed on the Forum website. Paul also indicated that he would contact each speaker to ask if they were happy for a pdf of the PowerPoint presentation to be placed on the Forum's website. *Postscript: the abstracts have been placed on the website together with a number of PowerPoint presentations.* **Action: Paul Burgess**

5) Membership secretary's report

Membership

John Holland gave a brief update on the membership, in the absence of Tony Waterhouse. The Forum had received membership fees from 33 members during 2008-09. It was agreed that the Membership Secretary would send a follow-up e-mail to all, within the British Isles, who had not paid a 2009-10 membership fee. **Action: Tony Waterhouse**

6) Treasurer's report

John Holland presented the Forum's accounts from 25 June 2008 to 18 June 2009. The balance at the beginning of the year was £2036.67. The closing balance for the end of the year was £2822.95. It appeared that the annual meeting, including membership fees, had resulted in a surplus of about £600. John reported that the accounts would be examined by an independent auditor. **Action: John Holland**

Statement of the account from 25 June 2008 to 18 June 2009.

	Opening balance	£2036.67
Income		
	Member subscriptions (2007/08)	£110.00
	Member subscriptions (2008/09)	£121.00
	Member subscriptions (2009/10)	£191.00
	Donations	£15.00
	Bank interest	£6.53
	Annual meeting 2009 – Registration fees, food and accommodation	£2094.00
	Sub-total	£2537.53
Expenditure		
	Reversal of bank transfer error	£64.00
	Deposit to National Forest Youth Hostel	£446.00
	Payment to YHA for annual meeting	£1011.25
	Payment to Robert Coaches Ltd (coach hire)	£230.00
	Sub-total	£1751.25
	Closing balance	£2822.25

In view of the state of the accounts, it was proposed that the annual subscription for an ordinary and student member be maintained at £10 and £1 respectively.

7) Election of the Executive Committee

During the past two years, Mike Strachan, Paul Burgess, and John Holland had been elected to the committee. According to the constitution, nominations for election to the Executive Committee with one proposer and one seconder have to be received in writing by the secretary two weeks before the AGM. Since the last meeting, Hugh Williams had resigned his position following his promotion at Forest Research. Hence there were currently seven vacancies on the committee. The following nominations had been received before the meeting.

	Nomination	Proposed	Seconded
Ordinary Member	Gerry Lawson	Paul Burgess	John Holland
Ordinary Member	Tony Waterhouse	Gerry Lawson	John Holland
Ordinary Member	Ian Short	Paul Burgess	Gerry Lawson
Ordinary Member	Jim McAdam	Gerry Lawson	Paul Burgess
Ordinary Member	Tom Dutson	John Holland	Paul Burgess
Ordinary Member	Greg Thexton	Gerry Lawson	Paul Burgess
Ordinary Member	David Pilbeam	Paul Burgess	John Holland

In addition, it was agreed that the following people would be co-opted onto the Executive Committee: Peter Bottoms (proposed Gerry Lawson; seconded Paul Burgess) and Jo Smith (proposed Martin Wolfe; seconded Paul Burgess).

Gerry Lawson indicated that it was his wish to resign as Chairman, after three years in charge. Mike Strachan, current Vice Chairman, agreed to take on the role of the new Chairman.

8) a) 2010 Forum Meeting, University College, Dublin, Ireland

Ian Short briefly outlined the itinerary for the 2010 meeting in Ireland. After discussion, it was felt best to host the meeting at Kinsealy Research Centre, Dublin with accommodation possibly at the University College, Dublin. This would be followed by day's field visit to Wicklow, in

association with the Wicklow Producer Group. The bus would return back to Dublin on the second evening. It was proposed that the meeting should start on the Tuesday, so that arrivals did not clash with expensive Monday morning flights. Jim McAdam indicated that it may be possible to include an additional field day in Loughall. It was agreed that Ian Short would confirm actual dates and accommodation arrangements as soon as possible. **Action: Ian Short**

b) 2011 Forum Meeting

Martin Wolfe suggested that there was a possibility of Wakelyns Agroforestry in East Suffolk hosting a meeting in 2011. Martin has established a series of demonstration agroforestry plots and is involved in an EU-project looking at the advantages of mixed cropping. Martin also had strong links with Elm Farm, where Jo Smith is based. It was agreed that Martin should be co-opted onto the Executive Committee during the coming two years, and that he should develop a provisional programme for the meeting next year. **Action: Martin Wolfe**

b) 2012 Forum Meeting

Peter Bottoms expressed interest in hosting a meeting at their new holding near CAT (Centre for Alternative Technology) near Machynlleth, Powys. It was agreed that Peter should outline a possible programme at the next Annual Meeting. **Action: Peter Bottoms**

9) Any other business

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

P.J. Burgess
Secretary
3 August 2009