

**Minutes of the
Farm Woodland Forum
Annual General Meeting
21 June 2010
at Maynooth, County Kildare, Ireland**



Present: Paul Burgess (Secretary), Tim Earle, John Holland (Treasurer), Ian Lane, Gerry Lawson, Jim McAdam, Ian Short, Jo Smith, Jo Secker Walker, and Mike Strachan (Chairman).

Apologies: Tom Dutton, Lynton Incoll, David Pilbeam, Clive Keble, Mark Malins, Alan Sibbald, Tony Waterhouse, and Martin Wolfe.

The meeting started at 9.30 pm. Mike Strachan chaired the meeting.

1) Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the AGM of 22 June 2009 held at the National Forest, Derbyshire, 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

09/01: At the last AGM, Gerry Lawson was asked to produce a summary translation of the French implementation of its Rural Development programme agroforestry measure (Article 44). Some details had been provided at the following website:

<http://agroforestry.eu/france/new-rural-development-plan-in-france/>

The same site can also be accessed from www.farmwoodland.com. Gerry indicated that he was running the website, and he had received information from France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Spain and the UK.

09/02: The abstracts for the 2009 meeting at Derbyshire had been placed on the Forum web-site (www.agroforestry.ac.uk). Ian Short would also make progress on producing a short report on the 2010 meeting for the website. . **Action: Ian Short**

09/06: John Holland confirmed that an auditor had formally audited the 2008-09 accounts.

3) Chairman's report

Mike Strachan reported on his first year as Chairman. Firstly he thanked Ian Short for organising the current meeting based in the Republic of Ireland. Mike admitted that whilst he had not been pro-active at a UK level, he had been actively involved in deliberations on agroforestry policy in Scotland. He noted that the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was due to be changed in 2013 probably with an increased focus on food security and climate change. He noted that there were currently wide variations in single farm payments across the different countries of Europe, and the implementation of a more common system after 2013 might actually see farm payments increase in the UK. He noted that in Scotland, there were serious declines in sheep and cattle numbers, but there was large interest in wood fuel. Four large power plants were being developed in Scotland, which would have an annual biomass requirement of about 20 million tonnes. Whilst much of this would be imported, there was a very large area of farm woodland in Scotland that was not actively managed. One recent initiative in Scotland had been the "Brian Pack Inquiry" which was providing advice to the Scottish Government on integrated land use. Mike noted that he had been involved in the process in areas covering areas such as the role of Article 44 and single farm payments

In Scotland, Mike also noted that Lucy Sumsion and Meg Pollock, with support from the Forestry Commission, had released a new Woodland Grazing Toolkit.

<http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/biodiversity/Publications.htm>

Within the Central Scotland Green Network, he also noted a Forestry Commission initiative to lease land to farmers interested in woodland management. There was also evidence of a revived interest in orchard management in Scotland.

Overall, Mike was positive that there was increased momentum between integrating forestry and agriculture in the UK. Across Europe, various countries were also implementing support for agroforestry, including south west Germany, France, Hungary and five provinces in Spain.

4) Secretary's report

Executive Committee

Paul Burgess reported that only one formal Executive Committee had taken place during the year.

JISCmail contact list and activity

As of 19 June 2010, there were 197 contacts on the Farm Woodland Forum JISCmail list, up nine from last year. Use of the JISCmail service (45 postings) was similar to last year (58 postings).

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 15 April 2010

5) Membership Secretary's report

Membership

John apologised that Tony Waterhouse was unable to make the meeting. Jon indicated that Tony would provide a written report by the end of August. **Action: Tony Waterhouse**

6) Treasurer's report

John Holland presented the Forum's accounts from 19 June 2009 to 31 March 2010. He proposed that using a March end-date would make it easier to produce accounts in time for the AGM, unless this created a problem with the Charity Commission. The balance at the beginning of 2009-2010 was £2823. The closing balance for the end of the year was £3780. 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.

Statement of the account from 19 June 2009 to 31 March 2010.

	Opening balance	£2823.01
Income		
	Member subscriptions (2009/10)	£112.00
	Member subscriptions (2010/11)	£30.00
	Donations	£1.00
	Bank interest	£2.99
	Annual meeting 2009 – Registration fees, food and accommodation	£1243.00
	Sub-total	£1388.99
Expenditure		
	Payment to YHA (final balance for 2009 meeting)	£432.35
	Sub-total	£432.35
	Closing balance	£3779.65

7) **Election of the Executive Committee**

Paul reported that Tom Dutson had resigned from his post due to poor health. Greg Thexton was also no longer employed on agroforestry work and he also would resign. This meant that four posts were available. Jo Smith (previously co-opted), Jo Secker Walker, Paul Burgess as secretary and Jon Holland as treasurer were elected to the committee. The position of Vice Chairman remained vacant. It was also decided that Paul Burgess should contact Dr James Walmsley at Bangor University to include Welsh representation on the Executive Committee mailing list.

	Nomination	Proposed	Seconded
Ordinary Member	Jo Smith	Paul Burgess	John Holland
Ordinary Member	Jo Secker Walker	Mike Strachan	John Holland
Secretary	Paul Burgess	Mike Strachan	Gerry Lawson
Treasurer	Jon Holland	Paul Burgess	Gerry Lawson

Existing members: Mike Strachan (2008), Gerry Lawson (2009), Tony Waterhouse (2009), Ian Short (2009), Jim McAdam (2009), David Pilbeam (2009).

Co-opted members: Martin Wolfe (2009-2011), Peter Bottoms (2009-2012), Alan Sibbald

8) **Future meetings**

a) **2011 Forum Meeting**

Jo Smith provided an update on the plan to hold the 2011 meeting focussed at Martin Wolfe's farm (Wakelyns Agroforestry) in East Suffolk. Martin had strong links with Elm Farm (where Jo is based) and Martin has established a series of demonstration agroforestry plots and is involved in an EU-project looking at the advantages of mixed cropping. There were also opportunities to see some of the new apple orchards planted in the area. Jo suggested that the meeting should run from Wednesday lunchtime to Friday at the end of June. One issue was that there was no large-scale accommodation close to Wakelyns and Jo wanted to know if the meeting should make use of university accommodation either in Norwich or Cambridge. It was suggested that Cambridge, close to Stansted, would probably be more accessible. It was agreed that Jo and Martin would continue to develop a programme to be discussed at the next Executive meeting.

Action: Jo Smith and Martin Wolfe

b) **2012 Forum Meeting**

At the meeting in Derbyshire, Peter Bottoms had expressed interest in hosting a meeting at their new holding near CAT (Centre for Alternative Technology) near Machynlleth, Powys. Paul Burgess had received no further details about such a meeting, and was agreed that Paul should try to contact Peter.

Action: Paul Burgess

There had been some recent e-mail traffic about a potential European Agroforestry Congress in Germany or France in 2012. This could also provide a focus for a meeting in 2012.

c) **2013 Elmwood College, Fife**

Mike Strachan proposed that one possible option for the 2013 meeting would be Elmwood College at Cupar in Fife. He would make further enquiries.

Action: Mike Strachan

9) **Any other business**

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.35 p.m.

P.J. Burgess

Secretary

13 December 2010; amended 10 January 2011