

**Minutes of the
Farm Woodland Forum
Annual General Meeting
8 p.m. Thursday 22 June 2017
at Mitchell Hall,
Cranfield University, Bedfordshire**



Present: Fabien Balaguer, Robert Borek, Stephen Briggs, Paul Burgess (Secretary), Mary Crossland, Eugene Curran, Nuria Ferriero Dominguez, Mark Donnolly, Kenisha Garnett, Anil Graves, Diccon Guy, John Holland (Treasurer), Doug Hutton-Squire, Colin Javens, Gerry Lawson, Mick Marston, Rosa Mosquera-Losada, Victoria Nelissen, Steve Newman, Andrew Ormerod, Tim Pagella, Joao Palma, Joana Amaral Paulo, David Pilbeam, Chrissy Prydun, Ben Raskin, Rowan Reid, Jo Smith, Daniel Stover, Mike Strachan (Chairman), Antia Villada, Kevin Waldie, Jeroen Watté, Vicky West, Sally Westaway, Martin Wolfe

Apologies: William Considine, Ian Short, Terry Thomas, Jim McAdam

1. Minutes

The meeting was chaired by Mike Strachan. The minutes (available on the [website](#)) of 2016 Annual General Meeting at Teagasc Ballyhaise College, Co. Cavan, Ireland were approved.

2. Matters arising

Correction: The 2017 Agroforestry Conference at Cranfield University took place on Thursday 22 June, with the Farm Woodland Forum meeting taking place on 23 June.

3. Chairman's report

Mike Strachan praised the organisation of the Agroforestry 2017 Conference which had occurred earlier in the day. Over 250 people, of whom 130 were farmers/foresters attended the Conference, organised by the Woodland Trust, the Royal Forestry Society and the Soil Association with the support of the Farm Woodland Forum.

Mike gave a brief update on the current state of agroforestry in Scotland, and invited country representatives to give similar updates. Eugene Curran explained progress in Ireland and Northern Ireland. Using notes provided by Jim McAdam, Eugene explained that there had been good uptake of the agroforestry measure in Northern Ireland. Stephen Briggs gave a brief update on the situation in England, and Tim Pagella explained progress in Wales.

4. Secretary's report (including website report)

4.1 Website

David Pilbeam (Website Secretary) gave a brief update on the management of the Farm Woodland Forum website (www.agroforestry.ac.uk). He thanked the James

Hutton Institute for hosting the website on their servers, and in particular Andrew Thorburn who looks after this service.

4.2 AGFORWARD project

Paul Burgess (Secretary) gave a brief update on the AGFORWARD project which will end in December 2017. The project has four objectives:

- 1) Objective 1 was to understand the context and extent of agroforestry in Europe. A systematic assessment of the area of agroforestry in Europe had been completed, peer-reviewed and this was now available [on-line](#).
- 2) Objective 2 was to identify, develop and field-test innovations through four participatory networks. In the UK, this involved groups focused on wood pastures, grazed apple orchards, alley cropping in organic arable and vegetable systems, woodland eggs, and fodder production for ruminants.
- 3) Objective 3 was to evaluate innovative agroforestry designs and practices at field-, farm- and landscape-scales. This included the development of new financial models.
- 4) Objective 4 was to promote the wider adoption of appropriate agroforestry systems in Europe through policy development and dissemination. This included support, with the Farm Woodland Forum, of the UK Agroforestry 2017 conference at Cranfield.

4.3. European Agroforestry Federation

Paul reported that the EURAF membership fee for 2017 remained at 10 Euros for a member of a national institution (such as the Farm Woodland Forum), with the understanding that the minimum contribution from the members of a national institution will be 100 Euros.

4.4. International Farming Systems Association meeting

Paul reported that an agroforestry workshop took place at the International Farming Systems Association Conference on Wednesday 13 July 2016 at Harper Adams University. This was followed by a field visit to the fodder system managed by Peter Aspin in Shropshire on Thursday 14 July.

4.5. JISCmail contact list and newsletters

As of 20 June 2017, there were 218 contacts on the Farm Woodland Forum JISCmail list, up 9 from last year, and up 10% from two years ago. Use of the JISCmail service (37 postings) has been below the long-term average of 50. The contacts also received the agroforestry newsletter from AGFORWARD.

4.6. Charity Commission: Annual Return and Trustee Update Form

Paul submitted the 2015-2016 Farm Woodland Forum Charity Commission Return on Thursday 5 January 2017.

5. Treasurer and Membership Secretary's report

5.1 EURAF Membership

John Holland (Treasurer) reported that during 2016-2017, the Farm Woodland Forum had 24 paid members, and 11 EURAF members.

5.1 Accounts

John Holland presented the Forum's accounts from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017. The balance on 1 April 2016 was £5459.82. The key form of income was membership subscriptions. The key expenditure was farmer bursaries for the European Agroforestry Conference in 2016. The closing balance for the end of the year was £4591.15.

Statement of the account from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017

		Amount (£)
Opening balance (1 April 2016)		5459.82
Income	FWF membership subscriptions (2016-2017)	212.00
	FWF membership subscriptions (2017-2018)	10.00
	EURAF Membership subscriptions (8 members)	80.00
	Sub-total	302.00
Expenditure	Payment for two farmer registration places at the 3 rd European Agroforestry Conference	240.67
	Payment of four farmer bursaries for travel and accommodation at the 3 rd European Agroforestry Conference	790.00
	Payment to EURAF for membership (11 members)	110.00
	Bank charges	30.00
	Sub-total	1170.67
Closing balance (31 March 2017)		4591.15

5.3. Membership fee

It was agreed that the annual Farm Woodland Forum membership fee would remain at £10, and £1 for bone fide students.

6. AFINET and the Farm Woodland Forum

AFINET (Agroforestry Innovation Networks) is a new three-year EU project (1 January 2017 to 31 December 2019) which aims to provide a forum for farmers, foresters, researchers and advisers to share experience regarding agroforestry innovation and to improve current practice. In the UK, the AFINET project is led by the Organic Research Centre (ORC) and Abacus Agriculture. Jo Smith and Sally Westaway from ORC explained how the Farm Woodland Forum and AFINET could work together. Paul Burgess explained that the Executive Committee had met and were positive about the opportunities provided by the project

Following some discussion, two motions were agreed:

- It was agreed that a representative from AFINET would take on the Communications Officer role with the Farm Woodland Forum. (*Postscript: it was subsequently agreed that Sally Westaway would take on this role.*)
- It was agreed that Farm Woodland Forum contacts would be given access to the AFINET network.

7. Election of the Executive Committee

The Constitution of the Forum states that Executive Committee members must seek election after three years if they wish to continue. Hence Mike Strachan (Chairman) stood again for election. His nomination was accepted unanimously and it was unanimously agreed that Mike should continue as Chairman.

The committee position occupied by James Walmsley had become vacant. Dr Tim Pagella indicated that he was happy to stand. His nomination was accepted unanimously.

8. Future meetings

There was some discussion about the location of future meetings.

2018: Jo Smith indicated that Chris Stoate and the team at the Allerton Research and Education Trust in Leicestershire would be happy to host the Farm Woodland Forum meeting in 2018. Gerry Lawson noted that the meeting should avoid the Fourth European Agroforestry Conference which will take place in Nijmegen in the Netherlands from Monday 28 to Wednesday 30 May 2018.

There was a discussion about whether the Farm Woodland Forum would provide support for selected farmers to attend the European meeting in 2018. It was provisionally agreed that up to £1000 could be made available for this purpose. William Considine's report on the 2016 European Agroforestry Conference is available on the FWF website (<http://www.agroforestry.ac.uk/reports/index.html>)

2019: Mike indicated that he was happy to support a substantial agroforestry conference at the Battleby Conference Centre in Perthshire. It would probably make sense for this to occur in 2019, two years on from the conference at Cranfield. Paul Burgess noted that the World Agroforestry Congress was being planned for Montpellier in France for May 2019, and hence the timing of a UK meeting would need to take that into account.

9. Any other business

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded.

P.Burgess@cranfield.ac.uk

10 July 2017