

**Minutes for the
Farm Woodland Forum
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 15 June 2023
Greenmount College, Muckamore,
Antrim, Northern Ireland
and subsequent on-line
Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday 4 July 2023**



Annual General Meeting: Present in person: Harry Bryer, Paul Burgess, William Considine, Fred Farrelly, Jon Haines, John Holland (Treasurer), Maureen Kilgore, Ian Lane, Rory Lunny, Jim McAdam, Geoff Newman, Jim O’Neil, Andrew Ormerod (Secretary) James Ramskir-Gardiner, Ben Raskin, Ulrich Schmutz, Clive Thomas, Lindsay Whistance, Katy Wiltshire.

Present online: Harriet Bell, Tim Pagella (Chairperson), David Pilbeam,

Apologies: Emma Eberhardt, Richard Jackson, Gerry Lawson, Michael Marston, Jo Smith, Sally Westaway, Christian Gossel.

1. Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

Paul Burgess chaired the physical meeting, as Tim (Chairperson) was online. The 2022 meeting was held in Bangor, North Wales. The minutes available on the FWF website [here](#) were unanimously approved.

2. Chairperson’s report (Tim Pagella)

Tim reported that it had been a busy year for the Farm Woodland Forum (FWF). There had been a rise in interest in agroforestry in the UK and Ireland and we are delighted to see the growth of the Irish Agroforestry Forum (IAF). The support for agroforestry had strong policy dimensions particularly after Brexit and the replacement of the Common Agricultural Policy. Defra and the Forestry Commission had given a high profile to trees on farms – but there are still challenges to deliver this. There has been increasing interest from farmers in regenerative agriculture and agroecology. The FWF remains a valuable knowledge hub for these enquiries.

Future role of FWF: FWF roots were in academia and sharing research this expanded through JISCmail to provide practical responses to farmers wanting to establish or maintain farm woodland. We have been interested in the way the IAF have been able to employ Maureen Kilgore who has been effective in engaging with Irish Farmers. We are still considering expanding the FWF beyond the current communication tools (website/JISCmail). We have developed small working groups to cover different themes such as the webinar series, strategic development, and international links outside Europe.

Webinars. These started during COVID as informal evening seminars. Harriet Bell and Jim O'Neill have developed a program around the theme 'annual agroforestry decision making' attracting an interesting set of speakers. This was a really positive development that I hope will continue.

Monthly meetings: instigation of executive monthly meetings has helped to develop momentum to achieve objectives. The map of agroforestry sites was integrated into the website during the year – although not visible to the public yet (thanks to David for his work).

Conferences: the FWF has been directly or indirectly in a number of conferences other than our own. Significant events still are the Woodland Trust/Soil Association “Agroforestry Show” on 6-7 September 2023 and the Irish Agroforestry International Conference in November.

Committee: we are at the end of a three-year cycle and we say goodbye to some very long serving members of the committee. I would like to thank John Holland, Jo Smith, Jim McAdam and Sally Westaway for many years of help with the forum – particularly Jim McAdam for his hard work setting up this conference, I would like to thank members of the committee for their ongoing support including Andrew Ormerod who stepped up as secretary at a busy time. So, a big thanks to you all.

3. Secretary's report (Andrew Ormerod)

International collaboration: Tim Pagella, Maureen Kilgore from IAF and Andrew Ormerod participated in a conversation with Hannah Hemmelgarn and Meghan Giroux at the American Association of Temperate agroforestry to identify common policy problems – there was real interest in continuing the dialogue.

JISC mail: there have been 82 postings and 162 JISCmail contacts since the last AGM. The is similar to that in 21-22 (177) and higher than pre-pandemic levels. Subjects creating greatest traffic were the Governments erstwhile notion of scrapping ELMS, Agroforestry questions for ONS (Office for National Statistics) and the Agroforestry Open Weekend. The number of users subscribed to the list was 306.

Monthly Executive Committee meetings: this has improved communications and actions taking place.

2021-22 Charity Commission Annual Return and Trustee Update: this was submitted at the end of September 2022

EURAF (European Agroforestry Federation) meetings: Tim Pagella and Paul Burgess have participated along with Maureen Kilgore from the Irish Agroforestry Forum.

IAF links: there continues to be good links with Maureen with planning for the International Conference in Ireland.

4. Website report (David Pilbeam)

Map: the map of Agroforestry sites across UK and Ireland became live in Spring 2023; 57 sites are currently shown. Paul Burgess noted that it would be good if data on the UK map could generally be made available on the EURAF map of agroforestry. Was there a way to streamline that process?

Website: there have been 13,172 pages viewed, most visited pages again was 'Agroforestry Systems – Pastoral' (17.31%), About Us (9.42%), UK & Irish Agroforestry (4.09%) and Resources (3.67%). As in previous years "Events" appear on the front page so don't appear in the stats unless pages are opened. Other example of the sort of enquiries FWF get; '**Contact Us**' most frequently from students asking about placements in agroforestry. David provides guidance for them to identify potential employees. A zoo enquired about the use of agroforestry potentially for animal feed. Thanks were expressed to James Hutton Institute for hosting the server and Andrew Thorburn for his time in helping David with the website.

There was a question about orchard mapping on the silvopasture layers, could that be combined? The answer was that a webinar has been suggested to discuss similarities between European/UK Agroforestry/Orchard maps this may address some of these questions.

5. Treasurer and Membership Secretary's report (John Holland)

EURAF Membership

Membership numbers

- John reported we had 29 ordinary members and 16 student members in 2022-2023
- EURAF (31 members in 2022, 3 members in 2023 pre-conference)

Accounts

John Holland presented the Forum's accounts from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. The opening balance on 1 April 2022 was £8178.72. The closing balance March 2023 was £9194.30.

| Statement of the account from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 | | Amount (£) |
|--|--|----------------|
| | Opening balance (1 April 2022) | 8178.72 |
| Income | FWF membership subscriptions (43 ordinary; 2 students) | 285.00 |
| | EURAF Membership subscriptions (19 members) | 280.00 |
| | Conference fees (registration, meals, transport) | 1610.00 |
| | Subtotal | 2175.00 |
| Expenditure | Transfer of funds to EURAF | 248.02 |
| | Conference Bursaries | 298.20 |
| | Conference Cost (coach hire) | 400.00 |
| | Eventbrite service fee (conference booking) | 213.20 |
| | Subtotal | 1159.42 |
| | Closing balance (31 March 2023) | 9194.30 |

The accounts are in surplus and the accounts were approved unanimously

There was a proposal to use surplus income for £200 bursaries for members to attend the Agroforestry Show in September and the Irish International Conference in September

with a maximum of 2 each per event. This was approved unanimously.

EURAF want a single payment in January in future, rather than regularly through the year as payments come in. EURAF membership is from January – January while FWF payments usually occur in June. Maureen Kilgore commented that the IAF paid EURAF every two months last year, this year they have paid the bulk now with the remainder later on in the year – she said it would be worth reminding EURAF that FWF are not a calendar based funding and do not have core funding to alter this.

Possibility of electronic banking: there is a need to look at how closely we manage membership. **(A future agenda item).** Ben Raskin commented Organic Growers went from 200 to 400 members when direct debit payments were introduced with a square tick box for annual membership renewal. Was it possible to rejig membership renewal to January?

6. Communication Officer's report (Ben Raskin)

Three main communication channels included 448 Facebook followers. Ben highlighted that the Agroforestry UK Facebook group administered by Ben has 2000 members (5-10 members are joining a week including USA, Kenya and India) so he has commented there is potential for them to join and post information on the FWF Facebook page. The Twitter Farm Woodland Forum page had 1200 members. Anyone who wants to regularly access Twitter to add stories contact Ben, or alternatively send stories to him.

7. Election of the Executive Committee and posts at the 2023 AGM

The following members of the Executive had to stand again for re-election after serving for three years: Tim Pagella, Jo Smith, Jim O'Neill, Sally Westaway, John Holland, Ben Raskin, and Paul Burgess.

Jo Smith, Jim McAdam, Sally Westaway and John Holland indicated that they would not start for re-election. Hence Jo, Sally and Jim could be removed from the AFORUM-mailing list after thanking them. It was agreed that John Holland as Treasurer would be co-opted to the Executive Committee until an alternate treasurer was found.

Newly elected members to the Executive Committee and/or working groups were Tim Pagella, Jim O'Neill, Ben Raskin, Paul Burgess, Nicola Warden, Lyn White, Lyndsay Whistance, Will Simonson, Christian Gossel, and Emma Eberhardt. Nicola is based in Northern Ireland and Lyn White is based in Scotland.

It was agreed that the specific members of the Executive Committee and/or working groups, and the role of Chairman and Treasurer/membership secretary would be to be addressed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

8. Farm Woodland Forum involvement with other future events

There are opportunities to be involved with a table at the Agroforestry Show and guidance has been provided to the Irish International Conference

Ben reported that the Agroforestry Show (6-7th September) was a new event so it is difficult to know how it will develop; hopefully 1000 attendees expected.

Maureen reported that the Irish Agroforestry Forum International Conference will be held on 16-17th November in Bantry.

9. Future meeting dates and venues

2024 FWF meeting: Paul Burgess proposed Cranfield University with involvement of Reading and Coventry Universities as a way of engaging PhD students in next year's meeting.

Dates to avoid the EURAF meeting in Brno, Czech Republic June 2024.

2025 – Scotland proposed.

9. Any other business

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 18.30.

Andrew Ormerod

15 June 2023

Draft Minutes of Farm Woodland Forum Executive Committee

4th July 2023, 4.00-5.00 pm

Present Paul Burgess, Christian Gossel, Andrew Ormerod (Secretary), Tim Pagella (Chair), Will Simonson, Clive Thomas, John Tucker, Nicola Warden, Lindsay Whistance, Lyn White,

Apologies Emma Eberhardt, John Holland, Jim O'Neill, David Pilbeam

A. Welcome and introductions

The meeting started with a welcome for new members and introductions. A primary purpose of the meeting was to follow up on the election of officers following the AGM.

B. Election of Chairperson

Jim O'Neill expressed interest in standing as chair in 2024, but was unable to stand in 2023-24. John Tucker was approached to see if he was willing to be chairperson for 2023-24 with a view that Jim O'Neill would be deputy chairman. He expressed interest in this.

A proposal for John Tucker to be Chairperson for 2023-2024, and for Jim O'Neill for to Deputy Chairperson for 2023-2024 in anticipation of being Chairperson in 2024-2025 was proposed by Paul Burgess and seconded by Clive Thomas. The proposal was accepted.

C. Election of Treasurer

John Holland had indicated that he wished to step down as Treasurer. Paul Burgess proposed Clive Thomas for Treasurer and was seconded by Andrew Ormerod. The proposal was accepted.

Clive Thomas indicated that he was keen for the Farm Woodland Forum to move to an electronic financial banking system. This could save time taking cheques to banks and allow membership renewal by direct debit. Clive indicated that he would also explore international electronic transfer for international banking. There would most likely be a transition period when the current system with cheque payments for membership would operate alongside electronic banking methods, which would operate at the same time until the electronic one and direct debit payment takes over. The idea of altering the FWF June – June annual membership to a calendar year membership was also discussed.

D. EURAF representatives

Two committee members represent the Farm Woodland Forum sit on meetings of the European Agroforestry Federation. It was agreed that Paul Burgess and Tim Pagella would continue as EURAF representatives for 2023-2024.

E. Executive Committee Members and Trustees

The Constitution of the Farm Woodland Forum indicates that the Executive Committee should comprise not more than 10 elected members and 3 co-opted members. These members are typically also the trustees of the charity, and hence listed on the Charity Commission Website. Because of the interest generated at the Annual General Meeting, the number of people interested in supporting the Executive Committee was greater than 13. New members of the Executive Committee were asked their views and were happy to be members of the Executive without being trustees for 2023-2024. The meeting also agreed for John Holland to be invited as Treasurer responsibilities were rearranged and for Maureen Kilgore to be invited in relation to links with the Irish Agroforestry Forum. Christian Gossel expressed interest in working alongside David Pilbeam in relation to website development.

| Executive Committee Members and Trustees (2023-2024) | Other members of Committee (2023-2024) |
|--|---|
| David Pilbeam (elected 2021) Ian Short (elected 2021) John Tucker (elected 2021) Harriet Bell (elected 2022) Clive Thomas (elected 2022) Andrew Ormerod (elected 2022) Richard Jackson (elected 2022) Tim Pagella (elected 2023) Ben Raskin (elected 2023) | Christian Gossel (elected 2023) Lyndsay Whistance (elected 2023) Nicola Warden (elected 2023) Will Simonson (elected 2023) Lyn White (elected 2023) Emma Eberhardt (elected 2023) Co-opted John Holland Maureen Kilgore |

| | |
|---|--|
| Paul Burgess (elected 2023) Jim O'Neill (elected 2023) | |
|---|--|

It was agreed that Andrew Ormerod would update the Charity Commission register of trustees taking into account Executive members who have stepped down

F. Sub committees

There were opportunities to develop subcommittees. These operate outside the main committee and report back. Current sub committees include an International sub committee establishing links with North America and the sub-committee linked to webinars. We are holding one webinar a month up to the time of the Agroforestry Show in September.

G. Any other business

The Farm Woodland Forum has been offered a stand at the Agroforestry Show. This would be an agenda item for the next Executive Committee meeting.

It was agreed that the activities carried out in this Executive Committee would be reported as an addendum to the AGM minutes.

John Tucker thanked Tim Pagella for successfully chairing the Farm Woodland Forum over the last two years.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 5.00 pm.

Andrew Ormerod
5 July 2023