

**Draft Minutes of the  
Farm Woodland Forum  
Annual General Meeting  
1 July 2011  
at Wakelyns Agroforestry, Metfield,  
Suffolk, England**



**Present:** Stephen Briggs, Paul Burgess (Secretary), Francois Clavagnier, David Corry, Roger Cozens, Tim Earle, Stuart Holm, John Holland (Treasurer), Steve Johnson, Katharine Leach, Ade Morley, Lynton Incoll, Ian Lane, Gerry Lawson, Nick Pasiecznik, David Pilbeam, Cordelia Rowlatt, Jo Smith, Jo Secker Walker, Bethan Stagg, Chris Stoate, Matthew Upson, Robin Walter, Louisa Winkler, and Martin Wolfe.

**Apologies:** Mark Malins, Jim McAdam, Ian Short, Alan Sibbald, Mike Strachan (Chairman), and Tony Waterhouse.

The meeting started at midday. Paul Burgess chaired the meeting in the absence of Mike Strachan.

**1) Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the AGM of 21 June 2010 held at Maynooth, County Kildare, Ireland, and posted on the Forum's website ([www.agroforestry.ac.uk](http://www.agroforestry.ac.uk)) were accepted as being a true record of the meeting.

**2) Matters arising on the minutes**

**09/02:** The abstracts for the 2010 meeting in Ireland had been placed on the Forum web-site. All other items arising from the minutes were covered under individual headings within the meeting.

**3) Chairman's report**

Mike Strachan was not present and he had not produced a Chairman's report. Paul Burgess thanked Jo Smith, Stephen Briggs, and Martin Wolfe for organising the 2011 meeting. There had been a strong series of presentations, the visit to Stephen and Lynn Briggs' farm on the previous day had been excellent, and the tour of Martin Wolfe's farm at Wakelyns, after the AGM, promised to be very interesting. Paul initiated a discussion, based on a question asked by Stephen Briggs, as to how the Forum could better engage with farmers. The discussion extended to increasing the role of the Forum in policy development, and future plans for the Forum's web-presence.

*Better engagement with farmers*

One proposal was that the Forum should produce an updated record of the key commercial agroforestry sites that exist or existed in the British Isles. Lynton Incoll had produced a record of experimental, trial, demonstration and commercial sites (active, maintained, terminated or abandoned) in 2001 (Incoll et al. 2002). Lynton agreed that he would circulate an e-mail to the Forum to update the list, seeking the agreement of farmers as to whether they wanted details of their sites to be made publicly available.

**Action: Lynton Incoll**

Jo Smith mentioned that a Reading University PhD student, Alexa Varah, was basing her work on six existing agroforestry sites across England. These sites should be included.

**Action: Jo Smith**

Incoll, L.D., Rogers, D.G., Clements, R.O., Newman, S.M., Beaton, A., Burgess, P.J., Acworth, W.F., Wolfe, M.S., Russell, K., Jones, M., Sinclair, F.L., Teklehaimanot, Z., Jones, B.L., Watson, C.A., Sibbald, A.R., Hulbert, I.A.R., and J.H. McAdam. (2002) UK Agroforestry Forum: a survey of agroforestry in the British Isles, 2001. *Agroforestry Forum Newsletter* 3, May 2002, pp 2-63.

URL: [http://www.agroforestry.ac.uk/newsletter/newsletter\\_may\\_02.pdf](http://www.agroforestry.ac.uk/newsletter/newsletter_may_02.pdf)

*Linkage with other organisations and influence on policy*

One other proposal was that the Forum should make stronger links with other organisations such as Natural England, FWAG, the RSPB, and the Woodland Trust. In particular, the Woodland Trust was interested in promoting woodland planting on farms. Paul Burgess reported that a student at Cranfield University was currently working with the Woodland Trust to describe some of the systems implemented before 1999 as part of the Bedfordshire Farm Woodland Demonstration Project. Stephen Briggs was hosting RSPB at a meeting at his farm on 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

Stephen also reported that during the next few months, there would be initial discussions about the form of Common Agricultural Policy support after 2013. Stephen suggested that it would be useful for the Forum to make available appropriate papers or pieces of script on the role of agroforestry. He reported that agroforestry had been implemented in recent US farm bills; why was there such slow progress in the UK? It was agreed that Jo Smith would bring together some words to explain the role of agroforestry. **Action: Jo Smith**

Paul Burgess mentioned that Christian Dupraz (INRA, France) had recently contacted the Farm Woodland Forum regarding a meeting in Paris in November or December on the subject of "The Common Agricultural Policy after 2013 and Agroforestry ". Paul Burgess suggested that, if required, the Farm Woodland Forum should use some of its existing funds, to ensure that it had representation at the Paris meeting. This was agreed. **Action: Executive Committee**

Roger Cozens announced that he will be chairing the agricultural session, on behalf of the British Institute of Agricultural Consultants (BIAC), at the Foundation of Eastern Studies Economic Forum in Krynica, Poland from 7-9 September. This will include Mr Dacian Ciolos (EU Commissioner for Agriculture) and possibly Caroline Spelman (Secretary of State for DEFRA). The subject will be "The Greening of the CAP", and this may be a useful forum to include material on agroforestry.

*Web-presence*

There was also a need to improve the website presence of the Forum. The details of the 2011 meeting had not been placed on the website. Paul Burgess reported that Alan Sibbald had indicated that he wanted to retire from being the web-master for the Forum.

One proposal from Gerry Lawson was to use transfer the Farm Woodland Forum material to the European Agroforestry Forum site, with a number of people having the ability to add material. By contrast Lynton Incoll thought that it was preferable to have a single web master in control, and that an active member should take it over. Gerry Lawson would submit a proposal to the Executive Committee regarding the future web-presence of the Forum.

*Post-script:* Subsequent correspondence with Alan Sibbald suggests that the web-site could still be hosted at the Hutton Institute. **Action: Gerry Lawson**

Paul Burgess also noted that David Pilbeam had kindly agreed to write up the 2011 meeting report for the website. **Action: David Pilbeam**

It was also noted that speakers at the Farm Woodland Forum would be asked for their permission for their presentations to be placed on the Farm Woodland Forum website.

**Action: Jo Smith**

**4) Secretary's report**

*Executive Committee*

Paul Burgess reported that an Executive Committee had taken place by teleconference on 10 January 2011.

### *JISCmail contact list and activity*

As of 30 June 2011, there were 194 contacts on the Farm Woodland Forum JISCmail list, down three from last year. Use of the JISCmail service (46 postings) was similar to last year (45 postings). Eucalyptus, grants, agroforestry sites, walnut trees and the annual meeting 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 7 January 2011

## 5) **Membership Secretary's report**

### *Membership*

Tony Waterhouse had not prepared a membership secretary's report as indicated in the previous minutes. It was proposed that following the lack of progress, the process of membership secretary be merged with that of Treasurer, undertaken by John Holland. Paul Burgess would supply the current list of Farm Woodland Forum members to John Holland. Lynton Incoll would also provide John Holland with management rights on the Farm Woodland Forum's JISCmail list.

**Action: Paul Burgess and Lynton Incoll**

## 6) **Treasurer's report**

John Holland presented the Forum's accounts from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011. The balance at the beginning of 2010-2011 was £3780. The closing balance for the end of the year was £3977. The accounts had been independently checked by J. Morgan-Davies on 22 June 2011. 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 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

	<b>Opening balance</b>	£3779.65
<b>Income</b>	Member subscriptions (2010/11)	£193.00
	Bank interest	£3.91
	Sub-total	£196.91
	<b>Expenditure</b>	
	Sub-total	£0.0
	<b>Closing balance</b>	£3976.56

## 7) **Election of the Executive Committee**

Since the last meeting, Paul Burgess had contacted Dr James Walmsley at Bangor University who was co-opted onto the Executive Committee mailing list to include Welsh representation. At the meeting it was agreed to re-elect Mike Strachan as Chairman, and to elect Mark Malins onto the Executive Committee. Stephen Briggs was also co-opted onto the committee.

	Nomination	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Mike Strachan	Paul Burgess	John Holland
Ordinary Member	Mark Malins	Paul Burgess	Gerry Lawson

Existing members: Gerry Lawson (2009), Tony Waterhouse (2009), Ian Short (2009), Jim McAdam (2009), David Pilbeam (2009), Paul Burgess (2011), John Holland (2011), Jo Smith (2011), Jo Secker Walker (2011).

Co-opted members: James Walmsley (2010), Martin Wolfe (2009-2011), Peter Bottoms (2009-2012), Stephen Briggs (2011), Alan Sibbald

## 8) Future meetings

### a) 2012 Forum Meeting, Wales

Paul Burgess reported that he had not been able to make progress with Peter Bottoms regarding a potential 2012 meeting near Machynlleth in Powys. Instead he had recently discussed with James Walmsley, the possibility of Bangor University hosting the 2012 meeting. In principle, James indicated that Bangor University would be interested. However James had suggested that it may be helpful for Bangor if the meeting was held in May. Stephen Briggs indicated that if the aim was to get greater farmer involvement then he advised that the meeting should be held after 15 May, the deadline for farmers to complete their European forms. The other key issue was that the date for the meeting should be indicated clearly in advance. Mark Malins was also working in Wales, and could be an appropriate person to be involved.

**Action: James Walmsley, Paul Burgess, Mark Malins**

### b) 2013 Forum Meeting: Elmwood College, Fife

At the 2011 meeting, Mike Strachan had proposed that one possible option for the 2013 meeting would be Elmwood College at Cupar in Fife. At that meeting he indicated that he would make further enquiries.

**Action: Mike Strachan**

### c) 2014 Forum Meeting: Devon

One possible location for the 2014 meeting could be Devon in South-West England. There was a silvopastoral agroforestry trial at North Wyke. There was also the Agroforestry Research trust managed by Martin Crawford. Bethan Stagg from Dartington Schumacher College, indicated that she was willing to act as a contact person in the first instance.

## 9) Any other business

There was a discussion about a recent e-mail on the Farm Woodland Forum's JISCmail mailing list from Suzanne Velandar, who heads a group of organic farmers and smallholders in Sweden, regarding a possible tour of UK agroforestry sites. Fergus Sinclair from Bangor and Jim McAdam from Northern Ireland had send responses.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 1.00 p.m.

P.J. Burgess

Secretary

11 July 2011 (corrected 3 August 2011; 17 October 2011)