

**Draft Minutes for the  
Farm Woodland Forum  
Annual General Meeting  
16.00 Wednesday 9 June 2021  
using Zoom**



**Present:** Johnnie Balfour, Sara Burbi, Paul Burgess, William Considine, Meghan Giroux, John Holland, Ian Lane, D. Lewis, Jim O'Neil, Andrew Ormerod, Tim Pagella, David Pilbeam, Ben Raskin, Oli Rodker, Ian Short, Jo Smith, Clive Thomas, John Tucker, Sally Westaway

**Apologies:** Matthew Axe, Harriet Bell, Eugene Curran, Gerry Lawson, Jim McAdam

The meeting was held on-line due to COVID-19 restrictions.

**1) Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting** held online (available on the [website](#)) were approved.

**2) Matters arising** There was an action for John Holland to look into PayPal for membership payment this action has been carried over. Ben also noted some actions on the 2020 communications report that he has yet to action.

**3) Chairman's report** (Tim Pagella)

Tim reported that individual country updates that are usually covered in the AGM were included in the FWF annual meeting webinar on the 8<sup>th</sup> June. The PowerPoint slides and recording from this event will be shared on the website. There was a discussion around producing a summary document from the event. Ben reported that he will be doing this as part of his Soil Association work and can share this, Jim O'Neill offered to help. Tim also the discussion evenings that arose as a result of lively discussions on JISCMail around a few specific subjects. proposed that we continue with

**4) Secretary's report** (Sally Westaway)

Sally reported that the Farm Woodland Forum response to the England Tree Strategy was submitted on 10 September 2020. The response can be viewed [here](#). Two FWF discussion evenings have been held to date, 'Sycamore or less' 8 Dec 20 and 'Wood pasture' 24 Feb 21. They have been very popular with c. 60 participants registered for both.

JISCMail contact list and activity: As of 8 June 2021 there were 222 contacts on the Farm Woodland Forum JISCMail list, up 7 from last year. Use of the JISCMail service (303 postings) was high during the year and up significantly from the previous year.

Sally also reported that an Executive Committee Meeting was held on 4<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 to discuss the Farm Woodland Forum name, the plans for the 2021 annual meeting and the informal

discussion evening and that the 2019-20 Charity Commission Annual Return was submitted on 28 December 2020.

#### 5) EURAF update (Paul Burgess/ Gerry Lawson)

Paul reported that there were 4 new member countries in EURAF, including Ireland. EURAF has produced a map of agroforestry sites across Europe (<https://euraf.isa.utl.pt/about/agroforestry-map-europe>).

**Action:** All to update EURAF map with more UK and Ireland sites and David/Sally to investigate aligning the EURAF map with the FWF map of sites that David has been working on.

Paul reported that EURAF is active in a number of research projects including AGROMIX (<https://agromixproject.eu/>) led by Sara Burbi from Coventry University several EURAF / FWF members in AGROMIX as well as participating in a number of new bids. Paul also reported that the virtual EURAF conference was a success and that plans were in place to hold an in-person meeting in Sardinia in 2022.

#### 6) Treasurer and Membership Secretary's report (John Holland)

John reported that the EURAF conference bursaries that were awarded this year were not taken up and will be carried over to next year.

	<b>Opening Balance (1st April 2020)</b>	<b>£7,019.31</b>
<b>INCOME</b>	FWF membership fees	£528.00
	EURAF membership fees (2020 and 2021)	£270.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>£798.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	Transfer of funds to EURAF (membership fees)	£338.19
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (cleared)</b>		<b>£338.19</b>
	<b>CLOSING BALANCE (31st March 2021)</b>	<b>£7,479.12</b>

John reported that in 2020-2021 the FWF had 53 ordinary members (including 10 new members), 2 student members (including 1 new student member) and 13 people asked for payment details or sent in membership forms but no payment was received. In 2020 there were 27 EURAF members and in 2021 as of 31st March 2021 there were 5 members.

91 people joined the virtual 2021 FWF annual meeting of these, 67 signed up as members and 29 people signed up for EURAF membership.

**Action:** John will email new EURAF members to check that they are happy to be added

**Action:** Sally and Jon to liaise over new signing up members from the Eventbrite bookings.

#### 7) Communication Officer's report (Ben Raskin)

Ben reported that the FWF Facebook page although inactive has 273 likes and 293 followers, Ben proposes that due to the interest in the page he will start to post to the page as well as the Facebook group 'Agroforestry UK' which was set up under GAB farmers and now has 1472 members with approximately 10 people per week joining. Ben also reported that the FWF Twitter account now has 1041 followers up from 812 in June 2020. There are a few people

who contribute to the Twitter feed, but if anyone else would like to tweet or retweet from The FWF account please let Ben know.

**Action:** Ben to carry out a review of FWF communications

## **8) Website report (David Pilbeam)**

David reported that the website appears to have been well used during the year of covid, with enquiries to the site occurring more than once per month. These mostly involve people wanting information on potential collaborative projects, or questions from students regarding attitudes to agroforestry. We have had 8897 visits to the site in the past year as opposed to the 7746 visits that we reported in a written report instead of last year's AGM, for the previous 15 months. The monthly numbers have picked up considerably since last spring, reaching a peak in December. Data of what parts of the site the visitors look at indicate that the 'Agroforestry Systems - Pastoral' page was the most visited page, with the whole of the 'Resources' area coming in behind it. In the 15 months before the first lockdown in 2020 the 'Meetings' area was the most popular and was four times more visited than 'Resources', whereas in the current year the 'Meetings' area was only visited a fifth of the times of the most visited page.

Phase 2 of the development, scheduled to be completed in summer 2020, was for a map of agroforestry sites in the UK and Ireland. As stated in last year's written report, there is a test version of this page, which works but has some anomalies that require correcting or improving. It was on track to be ready to make live on the website by June 2020, albeit with a relatively limited number of sites shown, but the coronavirus lockdown delayed this. However, it is anticipated that it should be available on the website in 2021.

We have made big efforts during the year of covid to keep the site up to date, as a lifeline for people wanting to find out about agroforestry from the restrictions of their own home. Updates to the 'Events' and 'News' areas on the home page have been carried out on an almost weekly basis during the year. Luckily there have been plenty of online events to highlight to our readers.

**Action:** All have a look at the website pages being most visited the 'Agroforestry Systems - Pastoral' and the 'Resources' section and suggest some content

## **9) Election of the Executive Committee and posts**

Sally reported that the Executive Committee included seven people who did not need to seek re-election: Tim Pagella (Chairman), Sally Westaway (Secretary), John Holland (Treasurer) and Ben Raskin (Communications Officer), Jo Smith, Paul Burgess, and Jim O'Neill.

The following people were re-elected during the AGM: Jim McAdam, David Pilbeam, Ian Short and Gerry Lawson. John Tucker was elected as a new member of the Executive Committee. Terry Thomas (not present) was thanked for his contributions to the FWF over the years and not re-elected to the committee.

It was agreed that the EURAF representatives from the Farm Woodland Forum for 2020-2021 would be Gerry Lawson and Paul Burgess. Jo thanked Paul and Gerry for representing FWF at EURAF recognising that it is quite a large time commitment.

### **10) Future meetings**

It was agreed that (Covid restrictions allowing) the 2022 meeting will be held in North Wales in June 2022.

### **11) Any other business**

Clive Thomas highlighted the significant increase in interest in agroforestry over the last few years and it was agreed that the FWF discussion evenings are a useful medium to allow discussion and time allowing will be continued using Zoom.

Andrew Ormerod highlighted that the Orchard Network are proposing a national orchard blossom day and are looking for organisations to collaborate with

Meghan Giroux signposted the useful and informative webinar series hosted by the Savanna Institute in the US: <https://www.savannainstitute.org/agroforestry-2021/>

Jo noted that the 5th World AF Congress will be in Quebec in 2022:  
<https://worldagroforestry.org/news/universite-laval-quebec-host-fifth-world-congress-agroforestry>

The meeting was closed at 17.10.

Sally Westaway (In-coming Secretary)  
6 June 2020