

**Minutes of the  
Farm Woodland Forum  
Annual General Meeting  
13 May 2014  
at White Hart, Dartington, Devon**



**Present** Mike Strachan (Chairman), Paul Burgess (Secretary), John Holland (Treasurer), Bob Chard, David Corry, Mary Crossland, Mick Gander, David Gibbon, Anil Graves, Gerry Lawson, Michael Jide Nworji, Stephen Parsley, David Pilbeam, Nasren Rekany, Jo Smith, Daniel Stover, Matt Towers, James Walmsley and Sally Westaway.

**Apologies:** Jim McAdam, Tim Pagella, Ewan Nugent.

The meeting started at 6.15 p.m, chaired by Mike Strachan, with minutes taken by Paul Burgess.

**1) Minutes of the 2013 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the AGM of 13 June 2013 at Falkland Centre for Stewardship, Fife, which are posted on the Forum's website ([www.agroforestry.ac.uk](http://www.agroforestry.ac.uk)) were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

**2) Matters arising on the minutes**

13/02. As discussed at the last meeting, the Lynton Incoll Memorial Fund enabled Michael Jide Nworji, a PhD student from Bangor University, to make a presentation at the 2014 meeting on a "Review of 20 years of Ecosystem Services Research at Henfaes Silvopastoral National Network experiment"

13/05. John Holland had sent an e-mail with a membership renewal request on 12 May 2014.

13/05. The Executive Committee had a telephone conference meeting on 10 December 2013. This included a discussion on the accumulation of money in the Farm Woodland Account. This is addressed under item 5.

**3) Chairman's report, Mike Strachan**

Mike gave an update on the development of agroforestry policy across the UK, with a particular focus on Scotland. In Scotland, the Woodland Expansion Advisory Group had been particularly important in identifying a key role for agroforestry with a focus on woodland grazing.

Across the UK, agroforestry measures were being adopted within the agri-environment payments (2014-2020) in Scotland and Northern Ireland. They were not being adopted in England, and the situation in Wales was unclear. A key issue in England was to develop interest in agroforestry systems and practices from farmers.

Mike reported that, in Scotland, woodland grazing payments were being claimed for 26,000 ha, out of perhaps a possible 100,000 ha. The number of trees per hectare that could be present without forfeiting single farm payments was to be increased from 50 trees per hectare to 100 trees per hectare, and perhaps even 225 trees per hectare.

#### **4) Secretary's report, Paul Burgess**

##### **4.1. AGFORWARD: a new EU project on agroforestry**

Paul reported that the EU FP7 project AGFORWARD (AGroFOREstry that Will Advance Rural Development) had started in January 2014. It is a four year project and the UK partners are Cranfield University, the Organic Research Centre, and the Agrifood and Biosciences Institute in Northern Ireland. Fergus Sinclair, was also involved, through the involvement of the World Agroforestry Centre.

Within the project, over the next six months, the aim in the UK is to set up four participative networks to i) improve agroforestry practices in parkland systems, and promote the use of agroforestry ii) in orchard systems, iii) on arable farms, and iv) in livestock farming.

##### **4.2. European Agroforestry Federation**

Paul Burgess had attended a number of the Skype meetings of the European Agroforestry Federation, where the Farm Woodland Forum is represented by Mike Strachan and Jo Smith. Steve Briggs is the Deputy Chairman.

The EURAF membership fee for 2014 for a member of a national institution (such as the Farm Woodland Forum) remains at 10 Euros. However the minimum contribution from the members of a national institution continues to be 100 Euros.

EURAF is hosting its biennial European Agroforestry Conference at Cottbus in Germany from 4 to 6 June 2014.

##### **4.3. JISCmail contact list and activity**

As of 12 May 2014, there were 202 contacts on the Farm Woodland Forum JISCmail list, the same total as last year. The 33 JISCmail postings included agroforestry and environmental impact assessments.

##### **4.4. Charity Commission: Annual Return and Trustee Update Form**

The 2012-13 Charity Commission Annual Return and Trustee Update form was submitted on 12 September 2013.

David Pilbeam was thanked for his continued management of the website and the report of the 2013 Annual Meeting which is on the website ([www.agroforestry.ac.uk](http://www.agroforestry.ac.uk)). In turn, David thanked the James Hutton Institute, and in particular Andrew Thorburn there, for hosting our website.

## 5) Treasurer and Member Secretary's report, John Holland

John Holland presented the Forum's accounts from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014. The balance on 1 April 2013 was £4300.63. The closing balance for the end of the year was £5136.63. The accounts had been independently checked.

The income and expenditure included the collection and payment of subscriptions to the European Agroforestry Federation. John also reported that the bank had allowed £40.87 of unauthorised payments, which were reinstated.

Statement of the account from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

		Amount (£)
Opening balance (1 April 2013)		4300.63
Income	FWF Subscriptions	240.00
	EURAF subscriptions (2013-2014)	120.00
	EURAF subscriptions (2014-2015)	20.00
	FWF Annual Conference 2013	676.00
	Refund of unauthorised payments	40.87
	Sub-total	1096.87
Expenditure	Unauthorised direct debit payments	40.87
	EURAF subscriptions to EURAF (2012-2014)	205.00
	Bank charge (for EURAF payment)	15.00
	Sub-total	260.87
Closing balance (31 March 2014)		5136.63

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. There were currently 14 paid-up members of the FWF for 2013-14. It was also agreed that John would send the e-mails of the EURAF members to Anja Chalmin at the European Agroforestry Federation. **Action: John Holland**

At present the European Agroforestry Federation is working in Brussels to help ensure a sensible incorporation of agroforestry in Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 of the new Common Agricultural Policy. It was proposed and agreed that the Farm Woodland Forum would make a one-off payment of 500 Euros to the European Agroforestry Federation for "the promotion of best practice in agroforestry to EURAF". **Action: John Holland**  
*Postscript: this payment was made on 6 June 2014.*

The meeting thanked John for his continuing work as treasurer.

Other suggestions on how to spend the money included the purchase of an audio system for field use at the 2015 Farm Woodland Forum meeting. It was agreed.

**Action: Organiser of next meeting**

**6) Election of the Executive Committee**

The Constitution of the Forum states that Executive Committee members must seek election after three years. Mike Strachan, who had stood for election in 2011, was happy to stand again as the Chairman. This nomination was proposed by Paul Burgess, seconded by Jo Smith, and agreed by all present.

**7) Future meetings**

**a) 2015 Forum Meeting: Elm Farm, Berkshire**

Jo Smith proposed that the 2015 meeting could be hosted at Elm Farm, near Newbury in Berkshire. The focus could be on biofuel from agroforestry systems and the use of traditional hedgerows. The meeting would probably be in May.

**Action: Jo Smith**

**b) 2016 Forum Meeting: Northern Ireland**

Jim McAdam suggested Northern Ireland as a possible venue for the 2016 meeting. It might be possible to link this in with an AGFORWARD meeting to promote a wider European focus. There could also be a focus on ash and ash dieback (*Chalara fraxinea*).

There was a discussion about how tree diseases such as ash dieback meant that attendees of agroforestry meetings should take precautions to prevent transfer of soil (and thereby diseases) from one site to another.

**8) Any other business**

Mike Strachan thanked Bethan Stagg for organising the 2014 meeting at Schumacher College at Dartington.

The meeting closed at 7.00pm.

Paul Burgess,  
10 July 2014 (updated 28 July 2014)