

**Minutes of the
Farm Woodland Forum
Annual General Meeting
held on 27 June 2006
at the Barley Mow, Long Wittenham, Oxfordshire**



Present: Olivia Agbenyega, Arnold Beaton, Paul Burgess (Secretary), David Corry, Gerry Hoppé, Lynton Incoll (Chairman), Gerry Lawson (Vice-Chairman), Fabien Liagre, Mark Malins, Jim McAdam, Steve Newman, David Pilbeam, Roger Sheldrick, Ian Short, Chris Stark, Chris Stoate, Mike Strachan, Tony Waterhouse (Treasurer), and Martin Wolfe.

Apologies: Tom Dutson, John Holland, Alan Sibbald, Lucy Sumsion and Zewge Teklehaimanot.

The meeting started at 8.30 pm. Lynton Incoll chaired the meeting.

1) Minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting at Gregynog, Newtown, Powys

In the minutes of the 2005 meeting, the missing name on the final page of the minutes was identified as being Gerry Lawson.

The minutes of the AGM of 30 June 2005 were accepted as being a true record of the meeting. Proposed by Roger Sheldrick and seconded by David Pilbeam.

2) Matters arising on the minutes

There were no items arising from the minutes other than those to be raised as agenda items.

3) Chairman's report

Lynton Incoll noted that this was his last AGM as Chairman. He had attended his first Farm Woodland Forum meeting, then called the UK Agroforestry Research Forum, in 1991. Since then, for 15 years, he noted that the Forum had remained an inclusive and sociable group of individuals who shared a common interest and got on well with each other. Lynton noted that he had now spent four years as Chairman, which he had taken on as an interim measure in 2002! During these four years, the Forum changed its name to the Farm Woodland Forum in 2003, to reflect the wider range of interests of the group, and it became a registered charity in 2005. He noted that there was still much for the Forum to do. In particular the Forum needed to broaden its membership, particularly in areas such as short-rotation coppice where it was poorly represented.

He noted that there had also been disappointments during the past four years. He was particularly frustrated by the inability of the Forum, for a number of reasons, to produce a newsletter. However there were grounds for hope. He was particularly heartened by the Executive Meeting held on the preceding evening. He felt that the future of the Forum looked good and he praised the enthusiasm of foundation members such as Jim McAdam (Chairman for 8 years) and Alan Sibbald (Secretary for 16 years and now web master). He invited all members to contribute with ideas to the Executive Committee as to how the Forum should develop. He wished the Forum and its new committee every success in the years ahead.

Jim McAdam thanked Lynton for his chairmanship of the Forum over the last four years. Prior to Lynton, Jim McAdam had been the Chairman and four years ago he noted that Lynton, who has a particular interest in silvoarable issues, had taken the baton on from a silvopastoralist. He noted that Lynton's involvement had been an inspiration for those nearing retirement! Together with a vote of thanks, two books were presented to Lynton.

4) Secretary's report

Paul Burgess reported that there were currently 44 members of the Forum. This represented a decrease in membership from the previous year, partly because the planned request for new members with a newsletter did not happen. There had been an increase in the non-UK membership of the Forum due to active recruitment of such members by the Chairman.

	2004/05	2005/06	E-mail address	2004/05	2005/06
Member type			Academic	19	14
Ordinary	45	29	Government	10	4
Student	3	4	Commercial	9	6
Overseas	3	11	Private	7	7
Sum	51	44	Non-UK	5	12
			No-e-mail	1	1
			Total	51	44

As of 26 June 2006, there were 177 subscribers to the JISCmail list, up three from last year. There was a decline in the number of subscribers with UK academic addresses and an increase in non-UK representation. Use of the JISCmail service (48 postings) was about half that of last year, but there were an additional 27 postings resulting from the Agroforestry Policy E-mail conference.

E-mail address of JISCmail subscriber	2004-05	2005-06
Academic	58	53
Government	38	37
Commercial (.co; org)	34	37
Private	25	26
Non-UK	19	24
Total	174	177

Paul Burgess also reported that he had submitted the 2005 Annual Charity Commission Annual Return and Trustee Update form on 17 May 2006.

5) Treasurer's report

Tony Waterhouse presented the treasurer's report from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006. The balance at the beginning of the year was £1127.81. With income from subscriptions from 2005/06 of £294, and income and registrations from the 2006 Conference amounting to £1709, the balance as of 30 June 2006 had increased to £3029.61. Tony estimated that costs arising from the conference would amount to about £1300, and obviously this would reduce the final balance.

Statement of the account from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006

	Opening balance	£1126.81
Income		
	Subscriptions (05/06)	£294.00
	Subscriptions (06/07)	£161.00
	Conference registrations	£1548.00
	Bank interest	£11.88
	Miscellaneous	£0.00
	Total	£2014.88
Expenditure		
	Travel expenses	£100.20
	Printing	£0.00
	Postage	£11.88
	Stationary	£0.00
	Total	£112.08
	Closing balance	£3029.61

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. Acceptance of the accounts and proposed maintenance of annual subscription fees was proposed by Mike Strachan, seconded by Jim McAdam, and carried by the meeting.

6) Report from the Fund-raising Sub-committee

Tony Waterhouse reported that the fund-raising sub-committee (A. Waterhouse, T. Dutson, J. Holland and G. Lawson) had identified their priorities as the need to increase the number of members, support for the annual meeting, and the organisation of a newsletter to bring in additional support.

Arnold Beaton noted that it was costly to produce a newsletter, and hence the Poplar Forum had approached the Forestry Commission. Tony Waterhouse replied that he had approached the Forestry Commission in Scotland, but they were unwilling to fund a newsletter for all of the UK. Chris Stoate asked why it was necessary to send a printed version of the newsletter. Lynton Incoll replied that a hardcopy newsletter had been indicated as a benefit of Forum membership following a request by the 2003 AGM for the Forum's Newsletter to be re-instated.

7) Report from Publicity and Publication Working Group

Gerry Lawson reported on the work of the Publicity and Publications Working Group. He proposed that the current working group (Gerry Lawson, Lucy Sumsion, Fergus Sinclair and Alan Sibbald) would change its membership so that Chris Stark would replace Lucy Sumsion and Ian Short would replace Fergus Sinclair.

Newsletter: no newsletter had been issued during the past year. It was still the plan to produce a newsletter in 2006.

Conference proceedings: Gerry Lawson noted that the current Forum Meeting had been well-organised and that it contained a number of interesting presentations. He asked if those presenting had been informed about the possibility of their presentation being placed as a pdf on the Farm Woodland Forum's website. Lynton Incoll noted that the abstract for each presentation at the 2005 meeting had been placed on the Forum's website (www.agroforestry.ac.uk) and it was hoped that papers would also be made available. Lynton

also agreed to contact each presenter to ask if they would be interested to place their presentation or a paper of their presentation for the 2006 meeting on the web-site.

Action: Lynton Incoll

Advertising the meeting: The 2006 meeting had been advertised through a number of organisations. It was proposed that a list of the current organisations would be circulated to the people present at the AGM, to determine if any additional groups should be contacted next year.

Action: Gerry Lawson

Website: Gerry Lawson thanked Alan Sibbald for his excellent work in maintaining the Farm Woodland Forum website.

Fabien Liagre noted that the web-address “agroforestry.eu” was available. It was agreed that the Farm Woodland Forum or its French counterpart should investigate the purchase of the web-address.

Action: Gerry Lawson

E-Conference: Gerry Lawson reported briefly on the E-conference held from 8 to 26 May 2006 on agroforestry policy, and in particular Article 44, single farm payments and agri-environment payments. He thanked Lynton Incoll for his work in setting up the E-Conference JISCmail list. Gerry noted that there were not as many contributors as he had expected. He noted that a second phase of the conference was planned for three weeks starting on 23 October. Martin Wolfe felt it was marvellous that the conference had happened and Lynton noted that the number of people registered on the conference was maintained or increased during the progress of the conference. Gerry noted that it would be good to identify a representative for each country in Europe for the second phase of the conference. Mike Strachan proposed that it would be useful for Gerry to send an e-mail to the Forum JISCmail list to ask for contact people in each country of Europe.

Action: Gerry Lawson

Regional forestry policy: Gerry Lawson raised the benefit of having a Farm Woodland Forum within each of the regions of the UK. In particular he asked if anyone knew of someone who could represent the North-East?

Lastly Gerry noted that to his knowledge, the Forum was one of the few groups who had arranged the venue for their meetings three years in advance and he was confident of an effective future for the Farm Woodland Forum.

8) **Election of the committee**

After four years of excellent work, L.D. Incoll had indicated that he wished to resign as Chairman. Lucy Sumsion and Zewge Teklehaimanot had also indicated that they wished to resign from the Executive Committee. John Holland, Mike Strachan and Paul Burgess (Secretary) were not standing for re-election in 2006.

According to the constitution, nominations for election to the Executive Committee with one proposer and one seconder have to be received in writing by the secretary two weeks before the AGM. The following nominations were received:

	Nomination	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Gerry Lawson	Lynton Incoll	Tony Waterhouse
Treasurer	Tony Waterhouse	Paul Burgess	John Holland
Member	Chris Stark	Mike Strachan	Paul Burgess
Member	Ian Short	Paul Burgess	Tony Waterhouse
Member	Hugh V Williams	Paul Burgess	Tony Waterhouse
Member	Jim McAdam	Paul Burgess	Tony Waterhouse
Member	Tom Dutson	Paul Burgess	Olivia Agbenyega

The meeting agreed unanimously to elect the new members, as indicated above, to the Executive Committee. Hence currently, we have 10 trustees, the maximum possible number.

9) 2007 Forum Meeting, Northern Ireland

Jim McAdam reported briefly on progress in organising the 2007 Forum Meeting in Northern Ireland. The planned topic was “Trees for Farm and Community – Post De-coupling”, and the proposed dates were Tuesday 26 June to Thursday 28 June 2007. The conference would include a visit to a local energy generation project. **Action: Jim McAdam**

10) 2008 Forum Meeting, Aberfeldy, Perthshire, Scotland

Mike Strachan reported briefly on progress in organising the 2008 Forum Meeting near Aberfeldy. A new series of woodland grants had recently been made available in the area covering both livestock exclusion and inclusion, and it was probable that the meeting could involve a visit to the first schemes piloted under the agroforestry (Article 44) pilot scheme in the context of land management contracts. There was also an option to look at pre-historic and medieval wood pasture sites. He was planning to pre-book accommodation for about 30-40 people in Aberfeldy. It was proposed that Mike Strachan should canvass opinion as to an appropriate theme for the conference. **Action: Mike Strachan**

11) 2009 Forum Meeting, National Forest, Derbyshire

Hugh V Williams had indicated that he was willing to host the 2009 Forum meeting in the National Forest, Derbyshire. **Action: Hugh V Williams**

There was some discussion about the possibility of a Forum meeting in continental Europe. If such a meeting took place, it was felt that it should be additional to a meeting in the UK.

12) Any other business

Paul Burgess noted that the environmental activities of Cranfield University were moving from the Silsoe campus to the Cranfield main campus in September 2006. Hence it would be necessary to change the registered address of the Farm Woodland Forum with the Charity Commission.

Lastly Lynton Incoll proposed a vote of thanks to the Northmoor Trust in their help and support in organising the Forum’s Annual Meeting, which was supported unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

P.J. Burgess
Secretary
13 July 2006 (corrected 18 July 2006)