

**Minutes of the  
Farm Woodland Forum  
Annual General Meeting  
21 June 2016  
at Teagasc Ballyhaise College,  
Co. Cavan, Ireland**



**Present:** Jonathan Blair, Paul Burgess (Secretary), John Casey, Mark Donnelly, Silvestre García de Jalón, Justin Good, John Holland (Treasurer), Rory Lunny, Gerry Lawson, Andrew Ormerod, David Pilbeam, Jim McAdam, Ian Short, and Terry Thomas

**Apologies:** Eugen Curran, Tim Earl, Jo Smith, Mike Strachan (Chairman), Tim Pagella, James Walmsley,

The meeting started at 5.30 p.m, chaired by Paul Burgess.

**1) Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the AGM of 18 May 2016 at the Organic Research Centre at Elm Farm, near Newbury in Berkshire, 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**

**15/05.** John Holland confirmed that the accounts from 2015 had been independently checked.

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

The Chairman of the Forum, Mike Strachan, was not present and no Chairman's report was presented.

**4) Treasurer and Member Secretary's report, John Holland**

**4.1 EURAF**

John reported that during 2015-2016, the Farm Woodland Forum had 53 paid members and two members from outside the British Isles. The Farm Woodland Forum had 22 EURAF members.

**4.2 Accounts**

John Holland presented the Forum's accounts from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016. The balance on 1 April 2015 was £5190.47. The closing balance for the end of the year was £5459.82.

Statement of the account from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016.

		Amount (£)
Opening balance (1 April 2015)		5190.47
Income	FWF membership subscriptions (2015-2016)	417.00
	FWF membership subscriptions (2016-2017)	11.00
	EURAF Membership subscriptions (2016)	35.00
	Sub-total	463.00
Expenditure	Bangor University payment (Lynton Incoll Scholarship)	193.65
	Sub-total	193.65
Closing balance (31 March 2016)		5459.82

There was good attendance at the 2015 Farm Woodland Forum Annual Meeting and this was reflected in the high number of paid-up members for 2015-2016. John would send an e-mail to those who had not attended the 2016 meeting to remind them about the 2016 membership fees. **Action: John.**

#### 4.3 Lynton Incoll scholarship

At the 2015 AGM it was agreed that the Farm Woodland Forum would provide support to two students to attend the Third European Agroforestry Conference and the Farm Woodland Forum Meeting at Ballyhaise College. As a focus of the European Agroforestry Conference was on the involvement of farmers, the Executive Committee agreed to also provide for a limited number of British and Irish farmers to attend the conference in Montpellier and an e-mail was circulated to the membership. In late April 2016, it was agreed that the Farm Woodland Forum would provide support for four farmers to attend the conference.

- The Forum covered the cost of two-days of the conference plus £200 towards receipted travel and accommodation for Liam Beechinor (from Ireland) and Niels Corfield (from the UK). Liam Beechinor is the first farmer to engage with the agroforestry programme in Ireland. Niels Corfield is setting up a 25 acre mixed farm in South West England.
- It also offered £200 towards receipt travel and accommodation for William Considine (from Ireland) and Julian Gold (from the UK).

The Farm Woodland Forum did not provide support for any UK or Irish student to attend the meeting in Ireland because of a lack of applications.

#### 4.4 Membership fees for 2016-2017

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.

The meeting thanked John for his continuing work as treasurer.

#### 5. Website manger's report

David Pilbeam provided a brief update on the website, which had been reformatted. He noted that it was good to give thanks to the James Hutton Institute, who host the [www.agroforestry.ac.uk](http://www.agroforestry.ac.uk) website on their servers, and in particular to Andrew Thorburn who looks after this service.

## **6. Secretary's report, Paul Burgess**

### **6.1. AGFORWARD: an EU project on agroforestry**

Paul noted that the AGFORWARD research project, funded by the EU, which runs until December 2017 was progressing well. He had provided an update on some of the key activities during an earlier presentation.

### **6.2. European Agroforestry Federation and 3<sup>rd</sup> European Agroforestry Conference**

The EURAF membership fee for 2016 remains at 10 Euros for a member of a national institution (such as the Farm Woodland Forum), with the understanding that the minimum contribution from the members of a national institution will be 100 Euros. Gerry Lawson continues as the Deputy President of EURAF.

The 3rd European Agroforestry Conference took place on Monday 23 to Wednesday 25 May 2016 (with an AGFORWARD meeting taking place on Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 May 2016). It was a successful conference with an opening address from the French Minister of Agriculture. In total about 280 people attended over the three day period; four parallel sessions were held for some periods of the conference, and the abstracts from the conference are available on the EURAF website.

Gerry note that there were British delegates (Jo Smith and Mike Strachan) linked to EURAF. Gerry asked whether there should be some direct Irish representation? He could facilitate this if Irish members of the Farm Woodland Forum thought that it was useful. **Possible action: Irish members of the Farm Woodland Forum.**

As indicated in the Treasurer's report, the Forum provided support for four farmers to attend.

### **6.3 IFASA meeting at Harper Adams**

Paul reported that an agroforestry workshop would take place on Wednesday 13 July at the International Farming Systems Association Conference at Harper Adams University. There would be seven platform presentations and there would also be a field trip on Thursday 14 July to Peter Aspin's silvopastoral system. *Postscript: A report on the workshop and the field visit is provided on the AGFORWARD website:*  
<http://www.agforward.eu/index.php/en/news-reader/id-13-14-july-2016.html>

### **6.4. JISCMail contact list and activity**

As of 17 June 2016, there were 209 contacts on the Farm Woodland Forum JISCMail list, this was up 10 from 2014-2015. The use of the JISCMail service (56 postings) was lower than in 2014-2015, but was higher than in most previous years. One of the more recent post of the capacity of trees to dry out agricultural land.

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

Paul report that the 2014-15 Charity Commission Annual Return and Trustee Update form was submitted on 27 August 2015.

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

The Constitution of the Forum states that Executive Committee members must seek election after three years if they wish to continue. Jo Smith, John Holland, Ewan Nugent and Paul Burgess were elected in 2013.

At the meeting, John Holland (Proposed Terry Thomas; seconded Ian Short) and Paul Burgess (Proposed John Holland; seconded Gerry Lawson) were re-elected to the Executive Committee. Jo Smith indicated that she was willing to stand again, was proposed by John Holland and seconded by Jim McAdam, and was re-elected. No information had been received from Ewan Nugent. Mark Donnelly, who is a Chartered Forester from County Cork, was proposed, seconded and was voted to be the new member of the Executive Committee.

## **8. Future meetings**

### **a) 2017 Forum Meeting**

At the 2016 meeting, John Holland had proposed that the 2017 meeting could be held at Crianlarich in Scotland. Paul noted that he had recently had discussions with the Woodland Trust, the Royal Forestry Society, and the Soil Association about holding a one day agroforestry meeting in Southern/central England in May/June 2017. Paul proposed that the Farm Woodland Forum should actively support this event and in view of the timing, it would make sense for the Forum to combine its annual meeting with the one-day conference. Paul indicated that Cranfield University was a potential venue (not yet confirmed), and it may be possible to include a field-visit on the day after the conference. The meeting was supportive of this initiative.

*Postscript: the proposed day for the one day conference is Thursday 8 June 2017, with a field visit on Friday 9 June 2017.*

### **b) 2018 Forum Meeting**

John Holland was willing to reschedule the meeting at Crianlarich in Scotland to 2018.

## **9. Any other business**

### **a) Definition of agroforestry**

Gerry Lawson asked it was possible to open a discussion within the Farm Woodland Forum regarding the definition of agroforestry: was it farming with trees, or was it farming with trees and/or shrubs? Paul indicated that from an academic perspective, agroforestry was often defined as the integration of woody vegetation (trees or shrubs) with agriculture. However, as indicated by Gerry, from a policy perspective it could be administratively clearer to describe agroforestry as farming with trees. It was agreed that Gerry would seek consensus from key individuals and the Farm Woodland Forum website would be updated accordingly.

**Action: Gerry Lawson**

Paul Burgess thanked Ian Short and the team from Teagasc, and Jim McAdam from AFBI in Northern Ireland for organising the 2016 meeting at Ballyhaise, together with the field trip to Loughgall on Thursday 23 June 2016.

Paul Burgess,  
31 July 2016