

**Fernaig Community Trust**  
**Draft Minutes of AGM, 12 December 2019**  
**Achmore Hall, 7.30pm**

Colin McAndrew welcomed all

**Present :** Colin McAndrew, Georgie Grimson, Neil MacRae, Lizzie Bird, Roddy MacPherson, Martin Irving, and Duncan Gibson

1. **Apologies** Jack Bird, Mary MacBeth, Phil Game and Biz Campbell
2. **Adoption of minutes of AGM December 2018**

The Minutes of the 2018 AGM were approved. Proposed by Roddy MacPherson and seconded Martin Irving.

3. **Chair's Report to AGM, 12 December 2019**

Earlier I read the report to last year's AGM and was struck by how busy a year that was. This year seems to have been much quieter, however that doesn't mean work has not carried on and business dealt with effectively.

Management of the land remains at the heart of our activities. At the beginning of the is more favourable. The Trust was approached by a young member of the community with a request for a small area of land to raise poultry. We were delighted to receive this, and happily complied. We hope that the project is proving to be a success and that other young people will be inspired by Connor and also become involved in the land. It has been good to see pigs introduced to Braeintra and the good work they have been doing to restore the field. There have been few land problems to deal with, though we are monitoring the condition of allotment road bridge carefully, and the erosion below it to the banks of the pool. The situation with the allotments remains as in past years, with many plots underworked or vacant. Mind you, the weather this year didn't help.

This has been the first full year of the new footpath and its popularity remains high and usage is good. The path has become part of the landscape and a regular pastime for many local folk and visitors. We now have routine maintenance on our agenda and many thanks to those who have given of their time to e.g. grass verge cutting. We are grateful to Duncan who sourced a heavy-duty rough-cut mower suitable for this job. It has become obvious that encroaching weeds are becoming a problem, reducing the path width and in places covering its surface, and we have discussed how to tackle this in the spring. The 400 young trees planted last year have almost all taken and grown on well, though some have suffered this autumn by being browsed by roe deer. The donation boxes have provided a small but welcome income. Unfortunately those bought did not stand up to the west coast weather and fell apart. Replacement, more robust, ones are now in place and a new information noticeboard will be erected at the Achmore entrance. The Community Council has offered a bench to be placed on the path, and we look forward to that being installed. We again held a successful Open Day in August as a contribution to Community Land Week, with a good crowd, excellent BBQ, sunny weather and 'interesting' duck racing', when a wind shift blew the contestants back upstream! All good fun and no doubt will be repeated in 2020.

We continue to liaise with a number of other bodies including the re-branded Forestry and Land Scotland (Lizzie may say more on that). The footpath has been included in a new directory of Health & Wellbeing opportunities published by Skye & Lochalsh Council for Voluntary Organisations. It is also being included in a review of core paths by Highland Council. We contributed to a survey of community assets conducted by Community Land Scotland, and were invited to include the path as part of the 'Highland Green Health Partnership' *Think Health, Think Nature* initiative to encourage greater public use of the outdoors. The latter has opened a small grant fund for 2020 and we have applied for a community growing project using a newly constructed polytunnel. We will know the outcome of the application in the next month.

During the year we have researched changing our current legal status to one as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, but have decided not to proceed in the meantime. However, if the administrative burden of being a Company Limited by Guarantee and Registered Charity increases further, we now know the steps to be taken and the process to make that change.

In conclusion, I would like to thank fellow Directors for all their work and commitment in giving time for monthly meetings and for taking forward our agenda. That agenda for the coming year includes, finally, the repainting of the Office.

As in the past, I especially offer thanks to Lizzie as Company Secretary (and minute taker), and to Georgie for keeping on top of all our finances so effectively.

Colin McAndrew  
10 December 2019

**Proposed by Lizzie Bird, seconded by Martin Irving and unanimously approved.**

#### **4. Company Secretary's Report**

I have carried out all the usual Hon. Secretary's duties, mainly taking minutes of meetings. Colin has covered all our activities over the past year which has been busy but fruitful as he has explained. What is so good about the Trust's Board is not only its commitment to the community but also to each other. The celebration to mark the first year of the new path being open is a case in point. I really enjoyed filling Duncan's BBQ buns with Roddy on my other side looking after liquid refreshment. My thanks to them and my other Board members to make a successful afternoon but also to everyone else who helped put up and take down tents and, of course, to all those supporters of the Trust who attended.

I would like to thank Colin yet again for being our 'guiding light'. He loves filling in forms! – thank goodness – but we all rely on him so much and fully appreciate the time it takes. The same can be said of Georgie and again we all appreciate the commitment she has to the role of Treasurer.

Colin mentioned liaising with Forestry & Land Scotland (re-named FCS). It is a good relationship particularly with regard to Strome Woods and Chris Nixon and his team in the Forestry Office. Just to update you felling is due in the woods in December and no access will be allowed during that time, the dates of which have yet to be confirmed. Some wood will be put aside for community use.

With regard to the woods a sad thing was the collapse of the wee hut. This is not the responsibility of F&LS but would be good to re-erect it at some point in the future.

Lizzie Bird  
11<sup>th</sup> December 2018

**Proposed by Neil MacRae and seconded by Martin Irving and unanimously approved.**

## 5. Treasurer's Report

Georgie presented the draft accounts.

### FCT TREASURERS REPORT September 2018 – August 2019

Income	4247.45
Expenditure	1634.11
Balance at 31 August 2018	1194.08
Balance at 31 August 2019	3807.42
<u>Annual surplus/ deficit</u>	<u>2613.34</u>

Good to see the bank balance in good order and a good increase in our annual profit of 2613.34. Compared to last year with all the footpath income and expenditure the accounts were fairly straight forward. The receipts for office rents are up by over 1000.00 due to the rent received from Lionsaidh Chaimbeul. Smallholding receipts have gone up by just over a couple of hundred pounds due to rent increases.

Receipts for donations are up by just under 300.00 thanks to an increase in takings at the duck race, BBQ and an increase in income from the donation boxes and a donation of £60.00 from Neil Yates, Braeintra. Apart from purchasing the Grass Cutter expenditure has been kept to a minimum.

#### Breakdown of major income sources

Office rents	1650.00
Allotment rents	200.00
Smallholdings	1599.00
Donations	810.76

#### Apart from the usual expenditure we had the following

Grass Cutter	300.00
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More detailed income and expenditure spreadsheets are available if anyone would like to see them.

When the accounts have been approved I will forward to the accountant for auditing

**Proposed by Martin Irving, seconded by Colin MacAndrew, unanimously approved subject to audit.**

**6. Appointment of Auditor**

It was agreed to appoint Nevis Accountancy Services as Auditors.

**Proposed by Lizzie Bird, seconded by Georgie Grimson and unanimously approved.**

**7. Any Motions to be proposed**

The Secretary reported that no motions had been received.

**8. Elections of Directors**

Those directors staying on the board were:-

Lizzie Bird and Georgie Grimson

By rotation the following directors stood down but were re-elected:-

Neil MacRae, Duncan Gibson, Martin Irving, Roddy MacPherson and Colin MacAndrew

Officer roles will be agreed at the Trust's Board meeting following the AGM tonight.

With no other business, Colin McAndrew thanked all those present for attending the AGM and the meeting closed at 19.55