



southern uplands partnership  
*living land, living community*

**Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017  
Yarrow Feus Community Hall, Yarrow at 2pm**

**Agenda**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last General Meeting (July 5<sup>th</sup> 2016 see below) and matters arising
3. Directors Report
4. Approval of accounts
5. Election of Directors
  - Mr Charles Strang. Standing for a second term as an individual Director
  - Dr Chris Miles. Standing as an Individual Director
  - Ms Bridie Ashrowan. Standing as an Individual Director
  - Ms Sarah Beattie Smith. Standing a Group Director
6. Fixing of subscription rates for 2017
  - It is proposed that membership rates remain as they are.
7. Appointment of auditors
  - It is proposed that the current arrangements are continued.
8. Announcement of election of Directors (if necessary)

The meeting will be followed by a discussion event considering the implications of Brexit on local rural development.

**The Southern Uplands Partnership  
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on  
Tuesday 5th July 2016 at 2.00 pm  
Yarrow Feus Hall, Yarrow, Selkirk, TD7 5NE**

**Present:**

Alan Crichton	Director
Ann Fraser MBE	Director
Andy McNab	Director
Charles Strang	Director
John Thomas	Director
John Thomson	Director (Convenor)
Luke Commins	Tweed Forum
Vicky Davidson	Scottish Borders Council
Kate Foster	Member
Chris Miles	Scottish Natural Heritage
Jane Musgrave ??	Borders Forest Trust
James Ogilvie	Forestry Commission Scotland
Peter Pitkin	Member
Bryan Scott	Dumfries and Galloway Council
Andy Swales	Public
Sally Thomas	Scottish Government (Guest Speaker)

**In Attendance:**

Southern Uplands Partnership - Pip Tabor, Ed Forrest, Sheila Adams, Emily Taylor

The Convenor welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the Annual General Meeting. He introduced the Guest Speaker, Sally Thomas of the Scottish Government, who will talk on Land Use Strategy.

**1. Apologies**

Adair Anderson	Treasurer
Mike Fraser	Director
Alistair Geddes	Director
Stuart Graham	Scottish Natural Heritage
John Mitchell	Director
Karen Rentoul	Scottish Natural Heritage
Peter Ross	Member
Sarah Smith	???
Fergus Watson	Director

**2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting of 1st July 2015 and Matters Arising**

The Minutes of the AGM of 1st July 2015 were agreed as a true record and were moved for approval by Mr Alan Crichton and seconded by Mrs Ann Fraser MBE.

There were no Matters Arising.

**3. Directors Report**

Pip Tabor, Project Manager, and Ed Forrest, Project Officer, summarised the Annual Report, which is also available to view on the SUP website.

Mr Forrest explained the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere project and highlighted the key achievements of this partnership project and the three Project Officers (Business Development, Community and Learning and Natural Heritage) over the last 12 months. He described the work of the Dumfries and Galloway Environmental Resources Centre (DGERC) which, thanks to successful funding applications to the LEADER Programme and the Heritage Lottery Fund, is expanding into Ayrshire and will change its name over the next 12-24 months to South West Scotland Environmental Resources Centre (SWSERC). The Ayrshire-based project, 'Where's Wildlife in Ayrshire?' will run for two years and will employ a dedicated Project Officer. Mr Forrest also described SUP's latest nature-based tourism project, the Wild Film Festival, which will take place in March 2017 and is believed to be unique as the only one in the UK.

Mr Tabor thanked and congratulated Mr Forrest on his efforts to source funding for 'Where's Wildlife in Ayrshire?' and the 'Wild Film Festival' as being the first applicant to be awarded two successful grants from the LEADER Programme in the first round.

Mr Tabor went on to summarise other projects undertaken by SUP during the 2015-16 year, which included: Ettrick and Beyond Broadband (Community Broadband Scotland); Land Use Strategy; Renewable Energy Potential Mapping Proposal; EuroRural Tourism and the Borders Uplands Demonstrator project.

The Convenor, Mr Thomson, invited questions on the projects but there were none.

#### **4. Approval of Accounts**

Looking back to the financial position 18 months previously when reserves were draining rapidly and Directors and Staff had serious concerns about the future of the organisation, Mr Thomson described the 2015-16 financial year as a triumph, in which £14k had been added to reserves. He thanked sincerely the Staff Team for their loyalty and efforts which had achieved this. Mr Thomson referred to the complex and varying financial packages for projects and thanked Mrs Adams for her efficient management and monitoring of the Company finances. Mr Crichton added his congratulations to Mr Tabor and his Staff Team for navigating through a difficult period with robust systems and hard work.

Mr Tabor thanked Scottish Natural Heritage and Dumfries and Galloway Council for their continued support, on which the success of the organisation depends.

Mr Thomson invited questions on the Accounts. Ms Davidson asked how the Company had achieved a £14k surplus. Mr Tabor explained that this was largely due to a slight change in focus whereby the organisation now charges consultancy fees for some of its services and had successfully tendered for several contracts. Mr Thomson stressed that challenges remain as not all projects which are developed come to fruition and the Company is dependent on a high success rate. Mr Tabor added that a significant amount of time can be spent on developing projects and making funding applications and the organisation is very grateful for the support of Scottish Natural Heritage in funding some of this time, which is critical to its success.

The Accounts for 2015-16 were formally approved by Directors and proposed as such by Mr Charles Strang and seconded by Mr Alan Crichton.

#### **5. Election of Directors**

Mr Tabor advised that Mr Mike Fraser (not present) and Mrs Ann Fraser MBE had both completed their second and final term of office and were stepping down as Directors. Mr Tabor thanked Mr Fraser and Mrs Fraser for their valuable contributions which would be missed. Mr Tabor presented Mrs Fraser with a small gift as a token of appreciation.

Mr Tabor gave thanks to the Board of Directors who collectively give a lot of their time to help and advise the Staff Team and without whom the organisation would be unable to function.

The following appointments were proposed:

Mr Andy McNab (Individual Director), standing for a second term.

Dr Liz Brooks (Individual Director), standing for a first term (not present).

Cllr John Mitchell (Group Director, representing Scottish Borders Council) (not present).

No objections were received to the nominations and the appointments were confirmed.

## **6. Fixing of Subscription Rates for 2016**

Membership rates were last increased in 2014 and it was proposed that the current membership rates remain as they are, which was agreed.

## **7. Appointment of Auditors**

Mr Tabor described the Company Accountants, JRW Group, as thorough and efficient and proposed that the current arrangement is maintained, which was agreed.

## **8. Announcement of Election of Directors (if necessary)**

No election was necessary.

## **9. Any Other Business**

The Convenor added his own thanks to Mr Fraser and Mrs Fraser for their contributions to the Board over the last six years.

The formal business of the AGM was closed at 2.25 pm.

The Convenor introduced Ms Sally Thomas, Head of Land Use Team at the Scottish Government, and introductions were made around the room.

Ms Thomas gave an informal presentation on the Land Use Strategy and summarised the main aspects of the Strategy. This led to some interesting questions and debate with examples of different perspectives given from those present.

The Convenor thanked Ms Thomas for facilitating this informative discussion and suggested that the Southern Uplands Partnership and the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere project is ideally placed to facilitate some of the work discussed.

The Convenor thanked everyone for attending the Annual General Meeting and wished them a safe return journey. The meeting closed at 3.50 pm.