

**Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 4th July 2013
The Gordon Arms Hotel Yarrow**

Draft Agenda

1. Apologies
 2. Minutes of the last General Meeting (July 3rd 2012 see below) and matters arising
 3. Directors Report
 4. Approval of accounts
 5. Election of Directors
Mr Andy McNab standing as an individual member. Mike Fraser and Ann Fraser standing for election for a second term as group members.
 6. Fixing of subscription rates for 2013
No changes proposed.
 7. Appointment of auditors
It is proposed that the current arrangements are continued.
 8. Announcement of election of Directors (if necessary)
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SOUTHERN UPLANDS PARTNERSHIP

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 3RD JULY 2012 AT 2.00 PM IN THE BUCCLEUCH ARMS
HOTEL, MOFFAT**

Present:

Tony Fitzpatrick (Director)
Ann Fraser (Director)
David Gwyther (Buccleuch Estates)
Maggie Gordon (Director)
Chris Miles (SNH)
James Ogilvie (FCS)
John Thomas (Director)
John Thomson (Convenor)
Mark Gibson (Craigengillan Estate)
Amanda Bergauer (Elvanfoot Development Trust)
Wilma Alexander ditto
Gill Burke ditto
Robin Austin (Barstobrick Visitor Centre)
Andrew Ward (Creetown Initiative)
Martin Anderson (Moniaive)

In Attendance

Pip Tabor, John Sellers, Ed Forrest, Nic Coombey, Sheila Adams.

The Chairman thanked all those present for attending and welcomed them to the Annual General Meeting.

1. Apologies

Adair Anderson	Director
Barry Dunne	SNH
Vyv Wood-Gee	Director
James Pringle	
Liz Marquiss	Energy Agency
Nigel Wallace	Ayrshire Joint Planning Unit
Andy Maybury	Community Energy Scotland
Mike Fraser	Director
Cllr Ron Smith	Scottish Borders Council
Chris Ballance	Director
Dr Elaine Murray MSP	
Sir Michael Strang Steel	
Simon Fieldhouse	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Alan Crichton	Director
Colin Liddell	J&H Mitchell WS
Joan Mitchell	

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting of 29th June 2011 and Matters Arising

Directors agreed that the Minutes were a true record and they were moved for approval by Maggie Gordon and seconded by Ann Fraser.

There were no Matters Arising.

3. Directors Report 2011/12

The Chairman highlighted the difficulties facing organisations such as SUP in maintaining a consistent approach because of the continual need to source funding. The Board have had much discussion over the year on strategy and key areas of work, such as Nature-Based Tourism, potential in all types of renewables and carbon emission savings and strategic issues for the region such as Broadband. The organisation is committed to providing the resources to facilitate dialogue.

The Chairman introduced Pip Tabor, Project Manager, who gave a presentation on the activities undertaken during 2011/12, which included:

Completed Projects – Nith Nature-Based Tourism; North Solway Coastal Trail Study; Lochar Mosses Study; Farm Based Tourism work.

Current Projects – Revitalising Ettrick and Yarrow Valleys; Uplands Habitat Enhancement Programme (Black Grouse); Building Opportunities in the Biosphere; Biosphere Natural Heritage; Dumfries and Galloway Environmental Resources Centre (DGERC); NBT Year of Nature.

Core Funding 2011/12 – Scottish Natural Heritage, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Scottish Borders Council, Project Management, Memberships, Interest, Donations, £30k reserves.

Mr Tabor acknowledged and thanked all funders for their contributions throughout the year for both core and project funding.

Anticipated Core Funding 2012/13 – Scottish Natural Heritage, Dumfries and Galloway Council, Scottish Borders Council, Project Management, Memberships, Interest, Donations, Private Sponsorship, Events.

Mr Tabor was pleased to welcome Banks Renewables as the organisation's first Patron.

Projects in Development – Cross Border Access Promotion; Year of Nature / Wild Southern Scotland; The New Ettrick Forest; Broadband Services; Renewable Energy Facilitation / Borders Energy Agency (BEA); Biosphere Development.

Plans for 2012/13 –

To secure significant new financial support; Re-engagement with policy development; Seek more strategic projects; Play role in Rural Parliament.

Mr Tabor answered questions from the floor and Mr Thomson thanked all the staff, on behalf of the Board, for their hard work over the year.

4. Approval of Accounts

The Chairman pointed out that it had been a deliberate decision of the Board to use reserves to balance the accounts for the year and the organisation was fortunate to be in a position to be able to do so in order to maintain activities and develop new projects.

The Accounts were formally approved by Directors and proposed as such by Ann Fraser and seconded by Maggie Gordon.

5. Election of Directors

Three Group members were elected and one individual member, being:

Mr Alan Crichton (NFUS), Mr Tony Fitzpatrick (Crichton Institute), Mr John Thomas (John Muir Trust), Mrs Vyv Wood-Fee (Independent).

Mr Thomson thanked all Directors for their commitment and hard work over the year and for volunteering their time to be Directors.

6. Fixing of Subscription Rates for 2012

No increase in the price of subscriptions was proposed. Current member rates are: Individuals – no charge; Small Groups £40 (unless they write advising that they cannot afford the fee); Large Groups £100; Patrons £500. It was hoped to mount a recruitment drive in an attempt to increase membership.

7. Appointment of Auditors

The Company had changed Auditors last year, moving to JRW Accountants, and was delighted with their performance. It was agreed that the current arrangement should be continued.

8. Announcement of Election of Directors

Directors were announced as per Item 5 –

Mr Alan Crichton (NFUS), Mr Tony Fitzpatrick (Crichton Institute), Mr John Thomas (John Muir Trust), Mrs Vyv Wood-Fee (independent).

9. Any Other Business

Mr Thomson paid tribute to Maggie Gordon who was standing down from the Board and thanked her for being a hard-working and long-serving member of the Board. Mr Tabor presented her with a small gift as a token of thanks and appreciation. Ms Gordon responded that she had thoroughly enjoyed her time on the Board and was grateful to the SUP for giving her the opportunity and experience. She would continue to champion the work of the SUP and hoped that she may return to the Board in the future when some of her other existing commitments ended.

The formal business of the AGM closed at 2.45 pm and the Chairman welcomed Mr Mark Gibson who gave an inspirational, informative and enjoyable presentation on his work developing the Craigengillan Estate at Dalmellington.

Mr Gibson took questions from the floor and after a vote of thanks by the Chairman, the meeting closed at 4.00 pm.