

**Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015  
The Buccleuch Arms Hotel, Moffat at 2pm**

**Agenda**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last General Meeting (June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2014 see below) and matters arising
3. Directors Report
4. Approval of accounts
5. Election of Directors  
Mr John Thomas (Group member for the John Muir Trust), Mr Alan Crichton (Group member for the NFUS) and Mr Tony Fitzpatrick (Group member for the Crichton Institute) are all standing for a second term.
6. Fixing of subscription rates for 2015  
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 presentation on the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Project.

**The Southern Uplands Partnership  
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
Monday 23rd June 2014 at 2.00 pm  
The Buccleuch Arms Hotel, Moffat**

**Present:**

Chris Ballance	Director
Bill Coombes	Forestry Commission
Tony Fitzpatrick	Director
Ann Fraser MBE	Director
Chris Little	Smithy House Associates
Karen Morley	Dumfries and Galloway Council
Malcolm Muir	South Lanarkshire Council
Simon Pilpel	South Lanarkshire Council
Cllr Ron Smith	Director
Charles Strang	Director
John Thomas	Director
John Thomson (Convenor)	Director
Vyv Wood-Gee	Director

**In Attendance**

Pip Tabor, Ed Forrest, Sheila Adams (Minutes)  
Chimwemwe Chagunda, Nic Coombey, Stephanie Miles

The Convenor welcomed everyone present to the Annual General Meeting and thanked them for attending.

**1. Apologies**

Barry Dunne	Scottish Natural Heritage
Alan Crichton	Director
Simon Fieldhouse	Dumfries and Galloway Council
Mike Fraser	Director
Alistair Geddes	Director
Andy McNab	Director
Adair Anderson	
Sandy Maxwell	John Muir Trust
Ian Jarvie	BCCF Environment
Sir Michael Strang Steel	
Jane Rosegrant	Borders Forest Trust
Dame Barbara Kelly	
Prof Roger Croft	
Dr Mary Ann Smyth	
Chris Miles	SNH
Barry Dunne	SNH
Robert Hall	

**2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting of 4th July 2013 and Matters Arising**

It was agreed that the Minutes were a true record and they were moved for approval by Ann Fraser and seconded by Andy McNab.

There were no Matters Arising.

### **3. Directors Report**

Pip Tabor, Project Manager, ran through the highlights of the Annual Report, which will be available on the SUP website shortly. He introduced the new Biosphere Team of Nic Coombey, Chimwemwe Chagunda and Stephanie Miles and explained the background to this phase of the project. Other successful projects carried out during the year were Wild Seasons, Capacity 4 Change, Explore for a Day in the Borders and Dumfries and Galloway Environmental Resources Centre. Development of new projects includes EcoSchools and encouraging small scale renewables in communities. Mr Tabor stressed the need for the organisation to seek longer term funding.

Mr Thomson paid credit to Pip, Ed Forrest and the rest of the Staff Team and thanked them for their efforts during what had been a difficult period financially.

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

Mr Tabor tabled the Balance Sheet for 2013-14 and reported that despite an increased and healthy turnover for the year, the organisation had to dip into its unrestricted reserves to cover core costs and keep afloat. The unrestricted balance at the end of March 2014 was £53k. As the Company has a policy of maintaining a reserve of one year's funding (approx. £100k), it would have to work to build that reserve back up, which is extremely difficult in the financial climate. Reserves are also necessary for cashflow, particularly where projects are funded in arrears.

Mr Thomson thanked Mr Adair Anderson for his input and financial assistance and advice in his role as Treasurer, as well as Mrs Sheila Adams for the day-to-day work in managing the accounts.

The Accounts were formally approved by Directors and proposed as such by John Thomas and seconded by Mr Tony Fitzpatrick.

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

The Convenor thanked Mr Chris Ballance, who stepped down after a 6 year term, for his work and input to the organisation. Mr Charles Strang was elected as an individual member, proposed by John Thomson and seconded by Vyv Wood-Gee. Mr John Thomson had completed a first term of three years and was prepared to stand for a second term. Cllr Alistair Geddes was elected, representing Dumfries and Galloway Council, proposed by Tony Fitzpatrick and seconded by John Thomson. Cllr Ron Smith was elected, representing Scottish Borders Council, proposed by Ann Fraser and seconded by Mike Fraser. Mr Tabor was delighted to welcome representatives from both local authority areas to the Board.

### **6. Fixing of Subscription Rates for 2014**

Following a freeze on Subscription Rates for six years, the following increase in rates was proposed and agreed:

Individual Members	from £10/year to £20/year
Small Groups	from £40/year to £50/year
Large Groups	from £100/year to £120/year

Patron	min of £500/year	remain at min of £500/year
Corporate	new category	£1,000/year

The organisation will endeavour to increase the number of Patrons from four to ten. Dumfries and Galloway Council will be the first Corporate Member with a £1,000 membership donation as it is no longer in a position to provide core funding. It is hoped that the other Local Authority areas will follow this lead.

Mr Fitzpatrick asked about the benefits of becoming a Member, which Mr Tabor replied are not tangible other than the good feeling of helping a worthy organisation. Patrons can have their logos on the Company website and Corporate Members can have their logos and a paragraph on the website.

## **7. Appointment of Auditors**

The proposal that the current arrangements with JRW Group should be continued was agreed. It was noted that the Company has to date only required an independent examination of the Accounts but will require an audit if turnover increases beyond £500k.

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

There was no election to report on.

## **9. Any Other Business**

The formal business of the AGM closed at 2.35 pm.

The Convenor welcomed Vyv Wood-Gee who gave an interesting and enjoyable presentation on the South West Scotland Coastal Path Development. This was followed by questions from the floor.

This presentation was followed by a presentation and discussion with the newly appointed Biosphere Officers – Nic Coombey (Community and Learning Officer), Chimwemwe Chagunda (Business and Development Officer) and Stephanie Miles (Natural Heritage Officer) who explained their roles and answered questions.

The meeting closed at 4.00 pm.