

Stroud Woodland AGM, 3 May 2020 (via Zoom)

Present: Ruth Illingworth (chair), Andy Freedman, Dominique Shead (secretary), Mark Harrison (treasurer), Nick Mills, Barbara Imrie, Paul & Clare Sheridan, Nadine Smykatz-Kloss, Wendy Gerard, Jack and Beth Richardson, Ben Spencer, Carolyn Buckley

Apologies: Gabriel Kay, Richard and Helen Keating, Carol Mathews, Nick Weir, Jackie Rowanly

Minutes of 2019 AGM

Two amendments necessary:

- '2017' should be changed to '2018'
- Ruth to investigate whether she discussed grants with Martin.

Approved by Barbara Imrie, seconded by Nadine Smykatz-Kloss.

Finance report

The accounts were shared on screen and the finance report summarised by Mark. Ruth and Dom will need to sign the accounts by scanning in their signatures.

Mark proposed that the accounts should not be audited professionally.

Ruth Illingworth approved both the accounts and the non-auditing, and Clare Sheridan seconded.

Thanks to Mark for all his work as treasurer over the last year.

Secretary's report

Dom read out her report covering the 2019/2020 year.

Election of directors

The current directors – Ruth Illingworth, Paul Sheridan, Mark Harrison, Dominique Shead, Barbara Imrie, Nick Mills – agreed to stay on. According to our rules, those who've been directors for three years have to stand down and then be re-elected, and Ruth and Paul duly were. Mark Harrison is stepping down from being a director, and Jack Richardson will be joining (proposed by Dominique Shead, seconded by Barbara Imrie).

There was some discussion as to whether the position of treasurer should be held by someone who is also a director or if Mark can continue as treasurer as a non-director. As there is ambiguity in the rules and also due to coronavirus restrictions, it was decided that Mark should carry on as treasurer, at least for the next year.

Nadine is stepping down from her post as organiser of the inspection rotas, and Carolyn Buckley will be taking over.

End of AGM.

Members meeting

Inspection rotas

Nadine will liaise with Carolyn about inspection rotas, and ensure that couples or single people are allocated for the next few months. Dom to check that the latest versions (with Paul's comments) are on Dropbox.

Processing/felling wood

There was a discussion about whether members felt we should do more to warn people not to gather in the wood, but people thought we'd done enough with our notices and plastic tape. If there is any future work to be done in the wood, it might be possible for people in family groups to do it.

Ruth will contact Adrian again about felling the fallen trees, and forward him Ben's video so that he can make an appraisal. Michael Dannenberg is another option, as are two tree surgeons that Andy and Beth recommend.

Follywood's ten-year anniversary

A big celebration of the wood's ten years is planned for July but may not go ahead depending on restrictions.

Jack and Beth Richardson have put together a survey for all members to complete that will give an idea of how the wood is being used, and give an opportunity for members to put forward any ideas. The survey could be used as part of the anniversary, with the aim of re-energising the membership. Dom to send out the draft survey to those present at the meeting (plus Richard Keating) for feedback.

The issues of a revamped website and the annual voluntary contribution will be discussed at a later date, rather than be included in the survey. Jack has experience of websites and is happy to maintain ours. Dom to contact Tom Keating.

Dave Gobey

Ruth reminded people that the police know about Gobey (the neighbouring farmer), so if there are problems in the future, report him.

End of meeting.