

John Muir Trust

Annual General Meeting 2016

Members are cordially invited to attend the Thirty-third Annual General Meeting, to begin on Saturday 4 June, at 11.30am, at Ironworks, 122B Academy Street, Inverness IV1 1LX

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Minute of the Thirty-second Annual General Meeting
3. Matters arising from the Minute
4. Chair's report
5. Financial report and annual accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015
6. Reappointment of auditors Messrs Scott-Moncrieff
7. Election of Trustees
8. Special presentation to Keith and Jane Anderson
9. Other relevant business

Draft Minute 2015

Thirty-second Annual General Meeting of the John Muir Trust, held at Galeri Caernarfon, Caernarfon on Saturday 16 May 2015

1. Welcome and Apologies

Will Williams (Trustee) welcomed 110 guests, members and staff to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

Apologies had been received from RF Jenkinson, Denis Mollison, John Rosen, Joe Harris, Ian Turner, Robert Watt, Andrew Scott, Beryl Leatherland, Gill Bond, Bill Wright, Patricia Jordan, Peter Hanson, Richard Fraser Darling, Anke Addy, Steve Albon and Elaine Harper.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minute of the Thirty-first Annual General Meeting, held on Saturday 3 May 2014 was approved.

3. Matters Arising from the Minute

None.

4. Chair's Report

In his report John Hutchison (on behalf of Peter Pearson) reflected on the 2014 commemorations of John Muir's death. He said that John Muir leaves a strong legacy and inspiration as a campaigner and this gives us the confidence to go on.

In 2014 the Scottish Environment Minister came to the Trust's AGM, the Wild Land Area (WLA) map was published by Scottish Natural Heritage and the Trust challenged the Scottish Government over the Stronelairg decision making process. In addition, the opening of the John Muir Way, the John Muir Centenary celebrations and launch of Rewilding Britain has given the Trust a high profile. This was acknowledged by the Trust being named TGO 'Outdoors Campaigner of the Year'.

Chair's Report continued

Stronelairg was consented just a few days before the WLA maps were published and that area was removed from the map. The Trust realised if the matter wasn't challenged other applications would follow. John said the immediate support the Stronelairg appeal received gave us confidence to go forward.

John pointed out that wild land and wild places are not just about protecting the scenery – the connection between people and land is a far deeper cultural activity than that. Access to land is at the heart of what we do and health and well-being are a very important part of why access is critical.

He thanked members and supporters for their generous and continuous support for all the Trust's appeals including the current Wild Ways appeal and John Muir Award appeal.

John said it was clear that members want to play a part to help this organisation achieve its aims, however we need to persuade public bodies to use public funds for the public benefit. Why does it fall to charities to support some of these areas?

He paid tribute to his predecessor, Dick Balharry, who had recently passed away.

Finally new Chair, Peter Pearson, in a filmed interview, thanked members for their generosity in supporting our appeals in 2014. He encouraged members to make their views known and said the Trust would be reviewing its membership strategy to attract more members – thereby increasing our income and influence.

The Chair's Annual Report was approved.

5. Financial Report and Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014

The Convenor of the Finance Committee Jim Gibson thanked Fiona Kindness, Director of Resources, and the staff for managing the finances and preparing the accounts ready for audit within a tight time frame.

Fiona presented the accounts to the members, drawing attention to sources of the Trust's income, significant areas of expenditure and the Trust's reserves position. Jim looked to the future and talked of a planned budget deficit for 2015 of more than £700,000 if the Trust was to continue with its current level of operations. This deficit would be covered by existing reserves but was not sustainable long term.

Jim encouraged members to think: "mission, membership and money".

- Mission – to protect and enhance wild land

- Membership – 10,000 members means significant potential to volunteer, campaign, be Trust ambassadors and encourage new membership
- Money – in the current economic climate fundraising is vitally important and members can help be that with payroll giving, responses to appeals or by putting a clause in our wills. If all our members gave the equivalent of the price of a Starbucks cup of coffee each week - £100 a year – that would give us £1 million extra a year.

The accounts were accepted unanimously.

Full company accounts are available on the Trust's website.

6. Resolution

'To increase membership subscription rates to the new rates proposed in Figure 1. To apply from 1 July 2015.'

The resolution was accepted unanimously.

7. Re-appointment of auditors, Messrs Scott-Moncrieff

Messrs Scott-Moncrieff were re-appointed as auditors.

8. Election of Trustees

The returning officer, Stuart Brooks, read the election results for the year. Peter Pearson, Chris Townsend, Deirdre Wilson, Steve Green, Patricia Jordan were elected for a three year term, and Duncan MacNiven filled a part vacancy of two years. All were congratulated and warmly welcomed to the Board. We had 14 candidates and we were gratified by their enthusiasm and would encourage all the candidates who didn't make it to stand again and maintain an active involvement.

9. Other Relevant Business

There was no other relevant business.

Vote of Thanks

Will Williams closed the meeting by giving thanks to outgoing and incoming Trustees, Jim Gibson, the Convenor of the Finance Committee and Fiona Kindness, Director of Resources. He also commended the chief executive and Trust staff. Particular thanks were given to Iona Sutherland for organising the AGM and Members' Gathering.

To be approved June 2016