



MINUTES OF THE 23<sup>rd</sup> AGM OF LINK, HELD ON 22 JUNE 2010, AT THE A K BELL LIBRARY, PERTH

## PRESENT

Ian McCall (Chair), Lloyd Austin (RSPB), Andy Fairbairn (WTS), Eila Macqueen (ArchScot), Jenny Mollison (SAGS), , Robert Maund (SCNP), Helen McDade (JMT), Nancy Nairn (WWFS), Helen Todd (RS), Calum Duncan (MCS), John Mayhew (APRS)

In attendance - Helen Zealley (President) Ian Findlay (Coopted Trustee)

Staff - Lindsay Roberts, Andy Myles, Alice Walsh, Jen Anderson, Hugh Green, Alan Wells

Ian McCall opened the meeting at 5.30pm and welcomed everyone.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Beryl Leatherland and Hebe Carus (MCoS), Deborah Long (Plantlife), Paul Ritchie, Jonny Hughes and Maggie Keegan (SWT), Alistair Beeley (NEMT), David Downie and Dan Barlow (WWFS), Jonathan Wordsworth (ArchScot), Rob Thomas (RZSS), Gordon Gray Stevens (SNW), Keith Irving (Living Streets), Sarah Dolman (WDCS), Roger Powell (SCRA), Bob Dawson (BBCT), Vicky Junik (NTS), Duncan McLaren (FoES), Drennan Watson (Cairngorms Campaign). Craig MacAdam (Buglife).

### **2. Minutes of Last Meeting** (25 June 2009)

These were proposed by Andy Fairbairn, seconded by John Mayhew and approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

### **3. Matters Arising**

Ian McCall thanked Members, Trustees, Task Forces and their leaders, the small active Staff team, and President Helen Zealley, for all their work over the year.

### **4. Special Resolution to amend the Memorandum and Articles of Association in their entirety by introducing a new Memorandum and Articles of Association in terms of the draft circulated**

Jen Anderson spoke to the proposed amendments which had been circulated with the notice of the meeting. These addressed Board tenure, to guard against too swift a 'recycling' of trustees with experience; they also made

new provision the new category of affiliation, Organisational Supporters, and to simultaneously wind up the Subscriber category; there was also provision to hold the AGM at any time during the year; and various small but relevant updates which Board and Lawyers advised in order to bring the document in line with current law and practice. No questions were raised and the special resolution was proposed by Lloyd Austin, seconded by Andy Fairbairn and approved by the meeting.

## **5. Annual report and Accounts for the year to 31 March 2010**

Ian McCall spoke to the trustees' report and accounts which had been circulated with the notice of the meeting. The document had been signed off by Chair, Treasurer and Auditors in May prior to circulation to members.

This had been a busy year with strong member engagement despite the climate of recession. Membership had risen by four with two new (RAFTS, Living Streets) and two returning (Soil Association, RZSS) members; there had been one resignation by Friends of Loch Lomond. A further application was in the pipeline from the Scottish Badgers Association. On the policy front the network had been active over a range of areas not least climate, marine and flood management legislation. In total, nine task forces had been active. Extension funding for the marine project had been secured from the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and the Tubney Trust. Whilst the future would be challenging, Ian noted that LINK was in good heart.

## **6. Election of Board of Trustees and Office Bearers and Appointment of President**

Ian McCall and David Downie were standing down from the Board.

Dan Barlow, retiring by rotation, was willing to stand again. Nominations had been received for Dan Barlow, Paul Ritchie and Helen Todd and their election was approved en bloc.

The meeting then unanimously approved the election of Deborah Long as Chair, Dan Barlow as Vice Chair and Paul Ritchie as Treasurer.

Members were pleased to note that the Board proposed to co-opt Ian Findlay and Mike Robinson after the AGM.

The meeting also approved, with pleasure, the Board's proposal to re-appoint Helen Zealley as President for a further year.

## **7. Appointment of Independent Financial Examiners**

Members approved the Board's proposal to continue to work with Morris & Young of Perth.

## **8. Annual Subscriptions for the year 2010/11**

Hugh Green reported that the Board was pleased to propose to continue to hold subscriptions at 2008/09 rates; this was made possible by the addition of new and returning members during 2009/10 which had helped LINK to

reach its financial goal of securing 50% of essential income from membership sooner than anticipated. The proposal was approved by the meeting.

## **9. Any Other Business**

### 9.1 Fred Edwards Trust & Memorial Lecture on 25 October

Lloyd Austin reported on the past year's efforts by LINK players and others who had known and worked with Fred to establish an initiative which would both commemorate Fred the man and make a relevant contribution for the future. Steps were being taken to set up the Fred Edwards Trust which would do various things including an annual lecture series, and a mentoring programme. Whilst the early establishment costs were being met by LINK and Capability Scotland, it was anticipated that the new Trust would take over by autumn 2010 to develop plans and pursue independent funding. The inaugural lecture by Prof Aubrey Manning would be held on the evening of 25 October at the Playfair Library in Edinburgh – all members most welcome.

### 9.2 Outgoing Treasurer

Ian McCall and Andy Fairbairn asked the meeting to record thanks to David Downie for his work over the last eight years. David had been instrumental in founding the Board's funding subgroup, helping to develop financial systems and move LINK to its current funding philosophy; a key reason for our relative financial health. In addition he had been an active member of the employment subgroup, addressing a range of recruitment and HR issues, providing line management to the Chief Officer.

### 9.3 Outgoing Chair

Lloyd Austin proposed a vote of thanks to Ian McCall as he stood down. Ian had been involved in LINK since 1992, having worked first with the RSPB and then Ramblers Scotland, culminating in his year as Chair in testing personal circumstances. Ian had enjoyed his time in the network and thanked members.

The meeting was pleased to present David and Ian with gifts in appreciation for their service.

The meeting closed at 5.50pm.

LINK/JA/22.6.10