



## **Note of General Meeting**

### **Attendance and Apologies**

Ordinary Members Present:	17
Proxy for Ordinary Members:	8
Associates:	2
Visitors:	1
Apologies:	10

### **Arrival and registration from 7pm.**

1. Two founding trustees were in attendance, namely Alan Ross and Andrew Lear. Alan took the Chair and opened formal proceedings at 7.20pm.
2. Alan announced the meeting quorate based on 17 Ordinary Members present from a current membership list of 328 requiring a minimum attendance of 5%.
3. He confirmed the purpose of the GM was to elect the first WSWG Board of Trustees.
4. Founder member, Elspeth Coutts gave a short presentation on the WSWG story to date, and its vision and purpose going forward including the range of key tasks for the new Board over the coming months and the main features for the WSWG project after community ownership is secured. Community Consultation on the Final Proposal for Taymount and Five Mile Woods and the CATS Application to Forestry and Land Scotland is now likely to be carried over until after the summer holidays. Technical challenges at the meeting limited the visual presentation but the slides are included with this note.
5. The Chair confirmed that as the number of nominations for Trustees did not exceed the maximum allowed, there would be no need for voting at the meeting.
6. Five Ordinary Members had been nominated as Trustees:  
Betty Abbott (Stanley/Kinclaven)  
Elspeth Coutts (Stanley/Kinclaven)  
Andrew Lear (Auchtergaven/Bankfoot)  
Shonagh Moore (Stanley/Kinclaven)  
Simon Yearsley (Auchtergaven/Bankfoot)
7. As voting was not required, there was no count.
8. The Chair announced the election of the above 5 nominees to the WSWG SCIO Board.

9. The new Board will meet at an early date to appoint its office bearers and decide how it intends to operate to take the WSWG project forward.

The new Trustees were invited to describe why they had got involved with the WSWG Project and what skills and expertise they are bringing to the board.

**Betty Abbott:** background in youth work, love of the woods and enthusiasm for action for our local environment.

**Elsbeth Coutts:** background in sustainable land management, the need for urgent action in this UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the value of a voice and a foothold in the local landscape for the community in delivering this.

**Andrew Lear:** as a professional orchard consultant and passionate environmentalist, he is particularly interested in access, enterprise and biodiversity aspects of the project.

**Shonagh Moore:** Creative background in Art & Design and business management along with a passion for community engagement in nature and our local landscape.

**Simon Yearsley:** background in project management and community engagement and action, coupled with a passionate belief in the value of natural spaces for the growth and well-being of our communities.

Further questions and answers were conducted from the floor, including the long-term financial basis of the WSWG Project, the role of timber sales in that, short and longer term, and the prospect of biodiversity and living forest income streams, and the importance of the new Trustees taking on board the lessons and learnings from earlier stages of the project. A range of community benefit enterprises are being proposed which will support the project financially long term. Being a community service, funding of the WSWG project can be expected to be a mix of diverse and changing income generation, external funding from charitable, philanthropic, corporate and public sources and where viable and if necessary, loans.

10. The meeting was concluded at 8.20pm for further chat over tea and coffee.

*Addendum: ref Items 1 and 8: At the subsequent board meeting on 29 June 2022, it was confirmed that Andrew Lear, Alan Ross and Catriona Gall had resigned as Interim Trustees.*

**2 July 2022**

*Signed: Shonagh Moore.....(Chair)      Signed: Bob Talbot ..... (Secretary)*

*Date: 31 October 2023.....*

*Date: 31 October 2023 .....*

Slide 1



## WSWG First General Meeting

### 1. How far have we come?

Elspeth Coutts

20 June 2022

Slide 2

### Where it began

2018

### Taymount and Five Mile Woods

289 hectares  
Forestry and Land Scotland  
Community Asset Transfer Scheme  
(CATS)  
Community ownership

*'One Wood with a  
Gap in the Middle'*





**Slide 3**



**Whose community woods?**

325 Members (129 Stanley + 66 Bankfoot = 195)

146 Associates

**Wide local interest:**

Stanley, Bankfoot & Kinclaven

Murthly and Spittalfield

Dunkeld to Luncarty

Auchtergaven CC goes west!

**West Stormont:**

Collective name from medieval times for this cluster of local parishes



**Slide 4**





Slide 5



back again  
my favourite stump  
sitting here in silence  
while the birdsong  
cascades round me

back again  
my favourite stump  
a chilly wind makes  
me shiver and  
my stiff knee aches ...

Slide 6



**WSWG Community Consultation 2021**

367 Surveys completed – representing 769 adults and 131 children (50% non-members)

***95% agree or strongly agree that the woods should be managed for climate and biodiversity***

1. Walking
2. Nature Walks
3. Environmental Education
4. Cycling
5. Foraging



## WSWG First General Meeting

### 2. A good look forward

Elspeth Coutts

20 June 2022



**WSWG Vision: "Window on the Woods"**



## Slide 9

### Whose community woods?

325 Members (129 Stanley + 66 Bankfoot = 195)

146 Associates

### Proposed Governance and Operational Structure

#### 2 Tier SCIO:

Chosen to ensure meaningful community involvement in WSWG as a staffed organisation

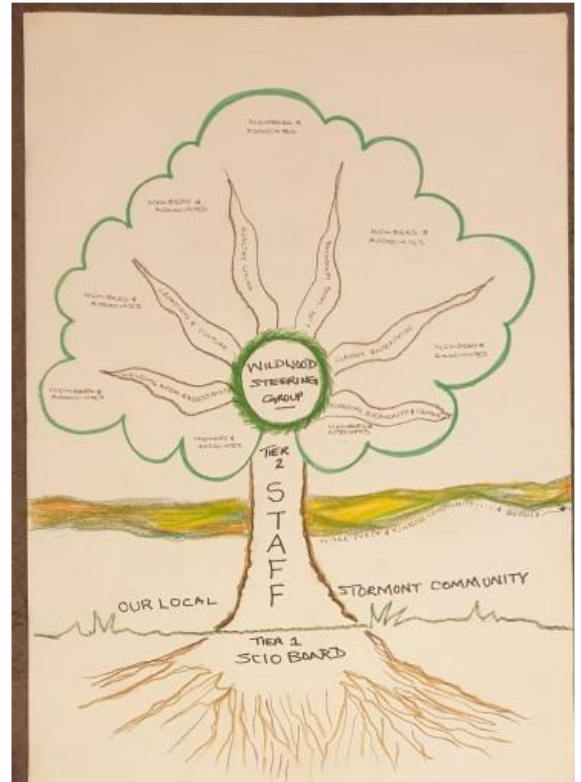
WSWG SCIO belongs to the Members who elect the Board of Trustees to act on their behalf.

#### Tier 1

- SCIO Board of Trustees

#### Tier 2

- Wildwood Steering Group– *heartwood*
- Window on the Woods Sub-Groups– *branches*
- Members and Associates – *leaves*



## Slide 10

### Next few months

- New SCIO Board
- Wildwood Steering Group
- Finalising CATS Costed Proposal and Business Plan
- Final Community Consultation
- Provisional Funding Package
- CATS Application (October 2022?)
- CATS Panel (early 2023)
- Decision by FLS (6 months max – early/mid 2023?)
- Funding secured
- Purchase of Taymount and Five Mile Woods
- Big Community Celebration!

## WSWG – Community Woodland Owners

- WSWG Staff – rising to 5 full time by Year 6
- Wildwood Steering Group and WotW Sub Groups
- Year-round Activities Programmes
- Woodland Management Plan for people and planet
- Flagship Projects:
  - Taymount Wood Hub
  - Five Mile Wood Woodland Observatory Project
- Access improvements
- Community and Forest Green Enterprises

