Scottish Wild Land Group

2025 Annual General Meeting

Saturday 6th December 2026 2:00pm

Session Room, Parish Hall, 12 Keir Street, Bridge of Allan

MINUTES

Present

Steering Group

Grant Cornwallis, David Roper, Tim Ambrose, Peter Ewing.

Members

Five members and an observer were present

Proxies appointed:

Proxy voting forms were received from 42 members.

Welcome and Convenor's Remarks

The meeting opened at 14:03

The Convenor welcomed all those attending and noting that a quorum was present declared the meeting open.

Minutes of AGM held 7th December 2024

The minutes of previous AGM had been posted to the SWLG website along with the papers for the 2025 AGM and hard copies were available in the room. The minutes were adopted unopposed.

Convenor's Report

The Convenor gave his annual report, thanking the Steering Group for its efforts and particularly noting the contribution that Doris Dietrich had made to the production of Wild Land News. He also thanked Norman McNab for sparking the idea of a further report on windfarms and, with David Watson and Charles Scott, for contributing their valuable time in reviewing drafts.

He apologised for the fact that only one edition of WLN had made it to press, the difficulty being the lack of a replacement editor after James Fenton's retirement.

Priorities for the coming year were to recruit more committee members with the objective of delivering more editions of WLN, reviewing at least some the myriad of planning notices received from the Energy Consents Unit and investigate broadening of membership, perhaps including more of the repeat international visitors to the Highlands.

He reiterated that the SWLG was in good financial shape. What was limiting its activities was a lack of volunteers and committee members able to commit time to "doing the work". He then invited suggestions as to how better to increase members' engagement, one being to

emulate LINKS approach to it Dunkeld meeting by preceding them with an activity such as a walk.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the annual accounts and report, which will be lodged with OSCR. The accounts had been posted to the SWLG website along with the papers for the 2025 AGM and hard copies were available in the room.

The principle "take away" is that the charity currently holds just short of £23,000 in funds which it can apply in 2026/27.

Adoption of Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

The Annual Report and Accounts were adopted unopposed.

A proposal by the Treasurer that the independent examiner be reappointed was adopted unopposed.

Membership Report

The membership secretary (Grant Cornwallis) reported that membership had remained stable at close to its average of 350. There were currently 348 members an increase of 6 over the previous year as two had sadly passed away. It remained a problem keeping the register of members current as some failed to notify the charity of changes of address.

Grant reiterated the importance of WLN as the primary means of recruiting, retaining and communicating with members. Absent an editor he and Doris Dietrich had sourced articles for, edited, formatted and organised the printing of WLN and he continues to distribute the majority of copies to outdoor shops across Scotland. Help is needed.

Election of Trustees

Pursuant to Article 77 of the constitution, all trustees retire at the AGM but are deemed to be re-elected (Article 78) unless they choose not to be reappointed, or an election is held and they are not re-elected. Bill Stephens had resigned his position earlier in the year. The remaining trustees (Grant Cornwallis, David Roper, Tim Ambrose, Peter Ewing) were thus re-elected.

There being fewer candidates that committee posts no election was necessary, however for information only the secretary noted the proxy votes were near unanimous in re-electing the existing committee, with only one vote cast against the re-election of one committee member.

Any Other Business

(a) Doris Dietrich, having volunteered to help Grant produce the issue of WLN, offered to join the committee. Her offer was accepted with celerity.

(b) A question was posed concerning SWLG's relationship to LINK, specifically as to whether they were dedicated (even obsessed) with renewable energy to the detriment of wild land.

The Convenor's considered response was that LINK encompassed many organisations

from Buglife through to the RSPB all with separate objectives, many of which are unrelated to landscape or wild land. John Muir Trust had re-joined LINK and was thought to hold similar views to SWLG as to the detrimental impact of renewable energy schemes, most however seemed to have no fixed view. The Greens, as is well known, are very pro renewable energy and anti nuclear.

(c) Grant and Doris issued a plea for articles and photographs for the next WLN and for volunteers to help in its production. The front cover photograph is of particular importance in drawing attention to the magazine; SWLG long relied on James Fenton's collection and is in dire need of a more libraries of striking images.

(d) A suggestion was made to start WhatsApp groups for the committee and for members.

(e) A suggestion was made that Scotland The Big Picture had run a successful fund raising campaign in which industrial partners matched (twice) the funds raised. There was concern as to the implications of such funding.

(f) Peter Ewing is to start a new position as Officer Commanding 612 Squadron RAuxAF, a specialist medical reserve unit. This will absorb his time leaving less available for SWLG.

Close

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 14:52

Post AGM Presentation

David Roper then gave a short presentation "Wind Farms - Wildly, Recklessly Wrong", a proposal to emphasise the development of nuclear energy over to minimise the impact of Net Zero on Scotland's wild lands. The presentation walked through the demand arising from an extended period of cold, still weather ("dunkelflaute") such as the winter of 1963 (which he remembers well) concluding that the energy storage needed to replace renewable generation (some 25 TWh) is physically unachievable. The only solution is to eliminate the need for storage, for which the only realistic zero carbon alternative is nuclear generation. That being the case, the purported justification for continued despoilment of Scotland's wilds lands is fallacious.

Following his presentation there was an opportunity for discussion. David accepted that environmental and conservation charities in general objected to nuclear power, putting his position at odds with them. He noted, however, two things: First, his, and SWLG's, objective is the protection of landscape. It is landscape that underpins environment and environment that underpins conservation. A fragmented, industrialised landscape looses not only amenity but the connected environments which conservationists strive to protect.

Second, our generation faces a trilemma. The first horn is catastrophic climate change. The second proliferation of renewable energy schemes (principally wind and pumped storage hydro) that destroy our landscape, thence its environments, while failing to guarantee the electrical energy needed to support a fully decarbonised society; the third is nuclear power. Arguably the least offensive is nuclear power. Its ability to deliver the energy society need is guaranteed, its risks can be managed and its landscape impact minimal.