

LTWO Ltd. AGM 2016

Limerick and Tipperary Woodland Owners held their AGM on Saturday, 2nd April 2016 in Newport Community Centre. The AGM proper was preceded by a site visit to a local semi mature forestry property owned by the Coffey family to whom we extend our sincere thanks. This visit was conducted by Forest Manager, Paddy Purser who spoke about forest management in general and Continuous Cover Forestry in particular.

The AGM was conducted by Chairman John Reardon and was attended by over sixty members.

The Minutes of the 2015 AGM which was held in Hollyford were read. There were no matters arising.

Nuala Ni Flatharta, Head Forestry Development Teagasc addressed the meeting. Most of her talk examined the role of forestry producer groups in timber mobilisation in the private sector.

This was followed by a presentation by Paddy Purser, ProSilva, on Continuous Cover. He discussed the role and methodology of continuous cover as a forestry management technique and compared it from a silvicultural and economic viewpoint with a clearfell approach to management.

At this point our new Group Forester, Liam Cleary was introduced to the members. Liam briefly spoke of his background with Coillte and his role with LTWO Ltd.

The final speaker was John Ryan Purchasing Manager with Murrays Sawmills who discussed the particular issues associated with managing small volumes typically associated with first and second thinning in farmer owned forestry. He also looked at the changing nature of timber demand in Ireland and Europe.

The chairman addressed the meeting and spoke about the deficiencies in the way the current Afforestation Scheme was being run, in particular, the hands off approach of the Forest service as soon as the plants were in the ground, also the lack of management training made available by the Dept. This has resulted in a high percentage of unmanaged forests and subsequent poor mobility of timber. The experience in Europe is that Producer groups are Govt supported until sustainability is reached. These groups offer services side by side with forestry companies, but are run on a not for profit basis in order to get the maximum return to the forest owner. We have made a detailed submission to the Dept on providing training and are awaiting a response.

Treasures report was presented by Kevin Madden Accountant, Caherconlish.

New Directors were elected as follows:

Ger Long, Knocknagoshel

MI Murphy, Castleconnell

Robert Barton, Clonmel

Marie Walsh Murroe.

Finally, a Draw was made for 4 prizes of chainsaw safety equipment.

There being no other business the meeting concluded.

Pictures from the walk prior to the AGM.



Paddy Purser with Angela Coffey.



Discussing Continuous Cover as an option.