

Date of meeting : 20 May 2018  
Time : 2:00pm  
Venue : Loch Leven's Larder, Kinross  
Committee : Next Generation  
Present : Mark Donald, Sarah Allison, Gary Mitchell, Jonnie Hall, David Cooper, Catherine Sloan, Adam Wright, Bruce McConachie, Jennifer Craig, Colin Ferguson, Gordon Caldwell, Andrew Orr, Nicola Orr, Daye Tucker, Jenny Brunton (Policy Manager).  
Apologies : John Manson, Alison Ritch, Peter Moss, Andrew McGregor, Duncan Morrison, Iain Livesey, Jamie Maclean, Iain Wilson

## 1. Chairman's Report from Mark Donald

- Mark extended his thanks to previous Policy Manager Lindsay Macdonald and welcomed new Policy Manager Jenny Brunton to the group.
- Mark extended his thanks to both Jenny and Sarah for their work in recent months due to his busy work schedule and having welcomed a daughter.
- Mark gave an update on the letter sent to Fergus Ewing (04/04/18) and the response received (11/05/18). The group will continue to press the issues raised around the unfair classification of a new entrant and other issues relating to the next generation.

## 2. Terms of Reference

- The group discussed the 'Terms of Reference' which had been drafted and widely circulated in advance by Jenny.
- Both Gary Mitchell and Jonnie Hall gave their expectations and laid out the commitment needed to keep momentum and legitimacy of the group.
- It was proposed that the group should have two vice-chairs. After discussion it was agreed that the committee should have the structure and the support in place that this is not necessary as it would also add another layer and the group needs clear leadership.
- It was proposed that there should be a time limit for the duration of a position held within the group. There was many suggestions of time limits and who this should apply to, chair and vice-chair only, or all regional reps etc. It was noted that the purpose of the next generation working group is to encourage new blood and so yes, we should see new people regularly entering the group but

we must maintain a degree of continuity. It was decided that this would be readdressed at the next AGM in February to determine time limits.

- It was agreed that Orkney and Shetland regional representatives will both have a voting place on the committee due to the diverse landscapes and the different perspectives they can bring to the group.
- It was agreed that the group will co-opt five places onto the committee.
- It was agreed that meetings will be open to all to attend as this will hopefully encourage more activity and interest.

**3. Election of Chairman** – Mark Donald was proposed by David Cooper and seconded by Catherine Sloan and was elected as Chair. There were no other candidates.

**4. Election of Vice Chair** – Sarah Allison was proposed by Colin Ferguson and seconded by Mark Donald and was elected as Vice Chair. There were no other candidates.

**5. Co-opted and invitees**

- Gordon Caldwell (Ayrshire) and Andrew Orr (East Central) were invited by the committee due to their farming experiences and expertise.
- Iain Wilson and Andrew McGregor were invited to the group as Chair and Vice Chair of SAYFC Agri-Affairs respectfully.
- The committee agreed that where appropriate the Chair and Policy Manager would propose other figures to be invited to join the working group.

**6. Appointment of Representatives to Commodity Committees for 2018/19**

- Livestock – Jen Craig
- Less Favoured Areas (LFA) – David Cooper and Jamie Maclean
- Combinable Crops – Iain Wilson
- Legal and Technical – Catherine Sloan
- Milk – Colin Ferguson
- Environment and Land Use (ELU) – Sarah Allison
- Tenants Working Group – Mark Donald

- Pigs – to be invited
- Poultry – to be invited
- Horticulture – Gordon Caldwell
- Potatoes – Andrew Orr
- Crofting, Highlands and Islands – John Manson tbc

## **7. Regional Update**

- Little to report other than Share Farming event in Thainstone on 6 June.
- Colin Ferguson and David Cooper have begun organising regional event and have discussed with their regional boards.
- Jenny is to ensure that every Regional Board meeting has Next Generation on the Agenda.

## **8. Breaking the Barriers Roadshow**

- Sarah Allison gave an overview of the planned events and what the group wants to achieve. The key aim is to gather information about the problems faced by young people involved, or wanting to be involved, in farming.
- Sarah has drafted a document outlining the event which provides a guideline, but each regional rep can look at what would work best in their area in regard to topic, location etc.
- Joint workshops with SLC and FAS – We have agreed to hold six joint events with the Scottish Land Commission and the Farm Advisory Service in Campletown, Edinburgh, Isle of Bute, Dingwall, Laurencekirk and Orkney. More details are still to be confirmed but these events will outline the opportunities available to new entrants and young people in agriculture.

## **9. Annual Work Plan**

An annual work plan was decided

1. To hold an event in every region this year to promote interest and activity of the Next Generation Working Group and drive this from a regional level.
2. Continue to lobby for next generation issues, including continued work in relation to the letter sent to cabinet Secretary Fergus Ewing in April.
3. Work with SAYFC Agri-Affairs to increase activity at regional level.

4. Membership – Drive interest through regional events and gain information of new and potential members.

## **10. Brexit – Next Generation Policy Asks**

Sarah Allison gave an overview of the Brexit document with the response being very positive to what Sarah had drafted and thanks was extended to her. The point was raised that some would like to see the front loading of payments on hectares to aid smaller units. Sarah will finalise a draft of this document for the group to agree before Mark presents at a Board of Directors meeting.

11. **Confirm dates of meetings** – The committee agreed that the next meetings of the Next Generation Working Group would take place in June at RHS, August, November and an AGM in February. Dates will be circulated by Doodlepoll.

## **12. AOB**

**12.1** Gary Mitchel raised the idea of having NFUS Next Generation branded clothing with a slogan. Gary will look into this.

**12.2** Policy Manager Jenny Brunton raised the possibility of attending a roundtable event in Parliament where we can raise the Next Generation's priorities for post-Brexit agricultural policy. The group suggested four presentations to highlight how they got into farming.

**12.3** The group agreed that there is a preference for weekend meetings but other locations such as Ingliston and Craigies Farm Shop to be looked at.

**ENDS**