



**Minutes of Annual General Meeting - 24th October 2009. Menzies Hall. 2pm.**

Directors present: Bill Acton, Martin Turner, Gordon Cowtan, David Howell, Pete Skabara, David Smith. Kayt Howell (Admin).

Apologies.: John Duckworth, Alex Ellis.

**Welcome.**

Martin Turner (Chair) welcomed attendees of the third FDT AGM.

MT explained the presence of the 'Panarama' film crew and their interest in including Fintry in a documentary to be aired prior to the Copenhagen summit on Climate Change. MT then handed to GC to give the annual report.

**Annual Report**

Gordon Cowtan presented the report. (Copies were available for those attending)

GC discussed the insulation project of last winter and the need to catch those who had missed out. GC outlined the difficulties in insulating some of the properties due their build type an FDT's current work on addressing this and the hindrance caused by trying to obtain accurate quotations. GC referred to the recent survey sent out to the community and how this would assist in developing the next stages.

GC discussed FRESCo and it's aim to provide low carbon forms of heating and energy for the village. A consultant is currently working on a financial model and business plan with the intention to begin a pilot project next year of around twenty households and then follow with a roll out programme for the rest of the village.

GC reviewed the success of the FRESH show in May and announced the intention to do a similar show next year with a greater emphasis on local interest and to be held in a single venue.

GC mentioned the energy saving measures received by the Sports Club and FDT's intention to work with the club in future measures to reduce it's carbon footprint. Assistance had also been given to The Menzies Hall to fund a reliable heating system. FDT was again aiming to continue to work with the Hall committee on further energy saving projects. The Primary school had also received some funding to add outdoor play equipment.

GC ran through the financial report and the various income and expenditure over the past year. Accounts will be posted on website but in summary:

Income - £122,163.21

Expenditure - £ 77,266.59

Balance at 18/10/09 - £ 193,000 (approx) .

The Directors then outlined some of FDT's future planned activities which include:-

1.The pilot scheme for FRESCo as mentioned.

2.Forming a self funding subsidiary group to advise other communities.(FROST)

3.FEET. A pilot of a rural car club scheme offering a range of transport with the flexibility to offer an alternative to second cars and be a solution to some of Fintry's transport issues.

4.Allotments. FDT are keen to support the idea of allotments for the village as suggested by some members of the community but would require the project to be investigated and driven by those interested.

5.Anaerobic Digestion. FDT are working directly with Daye Tucker from Killearn to run a feasibility programme using Farm waste to convert to electricity which is sold to the Grid, and heat which could be channelled into Poly-tunnels and green houses for growing local fruit and veg.

### **General Questions.**

Mr Chiknas, who is fairly new to the village, asked how the Turbine had been funded.

The Directors outlined the mortgage/maintenance arrangement which had been negotiated.

Mr Young asked what the shelf life of our turbine was.  
25 years (23 - 2 years in operation).

Mr Watson asked about the income figures and GC explained the full details will shortly be available on the website.

Mr Pearson asked about the turbine ownership.

GC explained about the ownership of a 15th of the wind farm income as opposed to owning an actual turbine. DH further explained how this spreads the risks and reduces liabilities.

Mrs Roy asked if FDT were aware of Stirling Council's proposals for subsidised taxi booking service as answer to transport issues.

DS said he was part of the group looking at these proposals and that a survey would be issued shortly and encouraged all residents to complete. The pilot scheme may be available by March.

Mr Hilmi asked about FDT's future contingency plans and investment ideas for the income.

BA stated that FDT were indeed conscious of the responsibility to invest for the future however this was difficult as new technologies were being discovered all the time and something may simply supersede turbines. DH added that there was always the basic option to replace the old turbine with new but that the goal was to produce all of Fintry's energy needs from 'Renewables.'

Mrs Chiknas asked if FDT had looked at some of the other smaller, individual technologies which were in common use in Germany and other European countries.

MT discussed the pros and cons of micro technologies and that more medium sized schemes would make the community more viable. PS added that the B&Q type turbines had not proved successful as the technology was just not there to produce sufficient energy. In answer to the question on solar panels, PS mentioned the efficiency of the new technology used in solar panels in Portugal and that at some point they may indeed be advantageous even in Scotland's climate. GC stated that Fintry was simply not windy enough to make the use of micro turbines viable.

Mr Pearson asked what the selection process would be for the Pilot Scheme for FRESCo.

GC mentioned that a suitable cross section of building types, lifestyles and technologies would be required. MT said that the original insulation survey would be the basis for the selection process and that volunteers would need to accept certain risks.

GC said that the three technologies proposed for the scheme would be Wood Pellet, Ground source and Air source heat pumps.

MT discussed the Government feed in tariffs but there were no definitive figures available as yet.

Mr Mackay asked if FDT had considered utilising the ground source stream/ river for heating.

MT & DH discussed the flow rate being variable and that further knowledge of the terrain and environment were necessary but agreed and confirmed that it was being considered as a possible solution to the Hall and Sports centre given their location.

Mr Haslam asked for advice as to which way to go for a suitable heating system for his Mother's house given there were so many offers of grants for wet systems and she had storage heating at present.

MT replied that this was a complex question as 'what is green and what isn't?'. It would be dependent on where the electricity came from - green systems and tariffs. The economics of the system has to be a consideration. The advice at the moment is to hold off doing anything for next few months but if the grant offers have limits then go for a wet system.

An important part of FRESCo would be to employ an Energy Advisor to deal with situations such as these and be available to assist new users of green systems.

## **Election of Board Members**

As required by the constitution- two board members must resign their positions each year and present for re-election,if they wish along with any other interested members of FDT. No other members had come forward, so with a show of hands Gordon Cowtan and David Howell were re-elected to the board.

Next Meeting/AGM - October 2010.

Refreshments.