



Minutes of the Board meeting held on
2nd July 2025

- **Present:** Iain Frazer (Treasurer), Anne Hislop (Chair), David Howell, Isla Kinnear, Sharon McMurtrie, (Vice Chair) Kayt Howell (Manager), Jane Wild (Administrator), Gordon Cowtan (Company Secretary), Janine Rennie (Financial Consultant).

1. Apologies

Kirsty Murray (Project Support Officer)

2. Any C.O.I. on the agenda items?

None

3. Any A.O.B. items?

- a) 2027 – 20 years of FDT Celebration –
 - i. REFRESH?
 - ii. Budget
 - iii. Content

4. Financial reports for A.G.M.

- a) Management accounts and budgets.

JR shared her screen. It's coming up to the end of the financial year – only one more month to go after this one. It's been a quieter month with only £15,672 spent leaving a deficit of £7424. Some months there has been much higher expenditure so £15k is quite low with no big amounts going out. The biggest spend was an insurance policy for Fintry Community Energy (FCE). There was a legal fee for FREE for £900 – something that occurs regularly. Plant maintenance costs were very low this month. Energy Saving Grants have been given out to total of £6984. Interest received is consistent with previous months and, along with heat sales income, there was a total income of £8248. Overall, everything is still going well with no surprises. JR asked if there were any questions about the monthly management spreadsheet. No questions were raised.

The total management account spreadsheet shows that the FDT is in a really good position with only one month to go before the year end. The minus figures are good because that means there will be no taxation at the end of the year. The FDT looks like it has a large expenditure but has given out a lot of grants over the year and has donated money to FCE. Overall, the organisation is in a good position financially.

The balance sheet spreadsheet shows a decent level of reserves (£1.3 million) despite giving out a good amount of grants. Much of this is available as liquid assets. There were no questions from the Board. The budget spreadsheet shows the donations to FCE total around £114,000 but will cancel out as the three arms of the company are consolidated at the end of the year. The difference between the projected budgets and the actual spends are minimal and pretty much even themselves out. They will be really useful for setting the budgets for next year and work on setting these has already begun.

JR commented that she is very impressed with the financial management by the team and that everything is ticking over nicely. There is a good balance of providing benefits for the community whilst keeping a good level of solvency.

The books for the month of June have been sent over to JR. KH & IF noted that there had been a lot of financial activity over the month of June. The expected income from the windfarm has not been received yet so will need to go into next year's accounts.

IF noted that, as JR pointed out, the maintenance costs at Balgair were very low this month which hopefully points to SW doing a good job and less money is being spent on unnecessary call outs. IF has noticed that income from heat sales does not seem to match the amount being bought and wondered if SL had any thoughts about why that would be. The FDT is paying out around £5K for heat but only getting £900 back. No money has been received from the caravan park for the heat they have used but they have not sent FDT an invoice for the electricity used. GC sent an invoice several months ago but did add a note that they needed to send FDT an invoice for the electricity. **ACTION: IF to contact SL to ask about the heat income/expenditure discrepancy and ask him to speak to the caravan park about the invoices for heat and electricity.**

GC mentioned JR's request for a meeting with himself and SL. SL is on holiday at the moment. **ACTION: GC to arrange a meeting once SL is back from holiday.**

- b) Excuse JR
JR left the meeting.

5. Approve minutes of last meeting – zoom notes

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

6. Actions from last minutes

- a) Prepare narrative sheet for future financial reports JR – done verbally this time.
- b) Track down fuel payment grant allocation JR – this has been done on the spreadsheet.
- c) Consider contingency calculation for Balgair figures GC – done
- d) Follow up with Nadara if no response received by next week GC – Nadara provided the figures. These were then sent to Locogen for checking. GC has a meeting with Locogen next week with regard to a comment made by them about the figures. KH/GC have also been trying to arrange a meeting with Nadara regarding the life extension of the turbines and Earlsburn. Unfortunately, the community liaison officer does not respond to emails. Nadara have been reluctant to engage regarding the life extension of the turbine. It could be because they are in negotiation with the landowner and are waiting until they have that sorted.
- e) Update grant application forms to clarify household-only criteria KM – done
- f) Develop framework for new environmental project fund STAFF – done
- g) Develop framework for renewable discretionary fund. STAFF – done
- h) Research and prepare outline plans for selected major projects BOARD – ongoing
- i) Organize fruit bush grant promotion for autumn STAFF – ongoing

7. Grants – KM's report as provided earlier

- a) Board approval/thoughts on a couple of grants –
 - the Board discussed a grant application that had been submitted regarding a polytunnel and hydroponics and production of vegetables. The Board were concerned that planning permission and/or licensing would be required for the proposed project and did not fully understand what was being proposed. GC suggested inviting the applicant to attend a meeting online to explain their idea in a bit more detail. **ACTION: The Board to send any thoughts and questions to KH. KH to arrange a meeting with the applicant.**
 - IF asked if it would be possible for KM to provide a summary of the projects that have been funded. The grant application forms are available for the Board to see on One Drive, but KH agreed that a short report would be useful. **ACTION: KH to ask KM if she could provide a short report to the Board regarding successful grant applications.**
 - The Board agreed to support applications for grants towards the purchase of greenhouses.
 - KH noted that applications for garden grants has been hugely successful and commended IK for this idea.
 - KH commented that some of the applicants are not FDT members and whilst this is not a requirement for receiving a grant, it would be good to have more members. **ACTION: Staff to put together a social media post explaining that there is nothing onerous about being an FDT member.**

8. Trees 2 (JW)

- a) Numbers – 206 trees in total have been claimed. Everyone has been really pleased with the trees – they were a good size and very healthy. It has been a great response. **ACTION: JW to post on FB asking for any photos of the newly planted trees to put on the FDT website.**
- b) Fruit bushes in autumn – Timing and budget per house. Fruit bushes would be good for people who do not have room for trees in their garden. The fruit bushes will probably be raspberry, blackcurrant and gooseberry and will be available in September/October. **ACTION: JW to find out the cost of the bushes and work out how many could be available to each household working on a budget of up to £100 per household.**
- c) Trees for School Woodland classroom. KH – The invoice has been received for the tree surgery work done in the woodland at the primary school. KH proposed providing some trees to be planted in areas where trees have had to be taken down and to involve the children in planting them after the summer holidays. This would be a good learning opportunity around biodiversity etc. **ACTION: KH to contact Callum for advice on types and numbers of trees that would be required.**

9. Workloads and Research choices, KH

These are taken from the Ideas Bank. The Board were asked to consider the items on the list and choose three to look at more closely with regard to staff capacity, budgets and timescales. They can then be looked at in the winter and decide which ones are not feasible/which ones look promising and decide which ones to focus on.

- a) List includes
 - i. Addressing Fuel poverty – GC & KH met with Fraser from Energy Action Scotland (EAS) recently. He had some ideas about how fuel poverty could be alleviated as the grants provided by the FDT to address this issue cannot go on indefinitely. Energy efficiency measures could be installed with a combination of grants from Home Energy Scotland (HES), eco-funding and FDT. This would need someone to put together a package with the relevant information and be available to assist residents who could benefit from this. This project could be linked to the retrofitting project.

- ii. Retrofitting (Strath Uni?) ONGOING – a meeting has been held with the contact from SU asking for some feedback from the projects that the students did. The whole project went well and provided useful information to the FDT. It did not involve a lot of staff time from the FDT and there seems to be a lot of ideas which could be developed further.
- iii. Solar and Battery combination for roll out (Strath Uni?) ONGOING
- iv. Transport – FDT electric minibus on the Hiya car system. This is a bigger project that may be looked at at some point in the future.
- v. EV installation package. (NOT Evolt) – the installation of an EV charger at the Sports Centre has proved very problematic. This project will not be repeated at other locations in the near future.
- vi. Follow on from Strathdyde Uni project results. Green Census – the idea is to involve students from SU to develop a baseline of where Fintry is with regard to who has renewable technology, what do they have? what is their usage? A similar survey was done in 2008 so it would be good to see how things have changed. Green Hydrogen, etc. AGREED as an ongoing
- vii. Paths - this would be done in partnership with Fintry Community Council (FCC) and Paths for All with the aim of connecting Fintry with other villages without having to use roads. The existing paths around Fintry also need some maintenance especially to clear fallen trees and deal with areas that have become overgrown. There was discussion about the FDT paying for someone to clear the trees that have fallen over the paths, but this would have to be agreed with the landowners. Planting new trees could also be considered – grants may be available to assist with this.
- viii. Fintry Forest – this could be linked with the Natural History Trail and the Paths project.
- ix. Climate adaptation – this is a very big project that would involve a lot of investment in time and money.
- x. Scholarship Bursary – this would be set up in the FDT's name with specific criteria about who could apply for it.
- xi. Natural History Trail – see A.O.B.
- xii. Repair café (Men's shed?) – Fintry Bowling Hub are planning to start up a Men's shed and the suggestion is that a repair café could be held there once a month. JW had been to look at a similar project in Barrhead. They had received grants to get established initially. Items can be brought to the repair café and will be repaired, if possible, for a small charge. Items are also made there to be sold at craft fairs etc. KH suggested looking at the Circular Community group as they have grants/funding available for starting up projects such as repair cafés.
- xiii. Other – Resident suggestion – Electric bikes – this would not be a project for the FDT to run themselves. The resident is happy to do some initial fact finding to see how much interest there is, how much the bikes would cost etc. The Board agreed that KH should encourage the resident to look into the idea and come back to the FDT with a plan for consideration.

Fuel poverty and Retrofitting will be combined as one project; Paths, Fintry Forest and the Natural History Trail will be combined as one environmental project.

- b) Six months check up on findings with an aim to select our projects against the budget for implementation by year end – it was agreed that the staff would look into the four main projects agreed upon (fuel poverty/retrofitting, the environmental project, the scholarship bursary and the Electric Bikes/Transport) over the next six months and then feed back to the Board at the end of they year.

10. **AOB**

- Naturesafe – KH has been in contact with Naturesafe Insurance Company. She asked them for a quote to compare with FDT's current insurers. They also offer grants for projects which encourage people to reconnect with nature. KH has submitted an application for a grant for the Natural History Trail project.
- EV charger – The transition from Charge Place Scotland to Evolt which should have been done but never happened. The Sports Centre were owed £650. The EV charger had a flashing red light at the beginning of May which indicated it was not working and therefore no-one was using it. An engineer attended and KH was informed that they had not been able to find anything wrong with it. This was clearly untrue. Following this, the red light was no longer flashing but the charger was not working. KH sent them a sternly worded email outlining all the issues there have been and finally everything seems to have been sorted.
- 2027 – 20 years of FDT Celebration – it would be nice to pull together all of FDT's successes and celebrate in some way. This could be a small event limited to Fintry residents or it could be a bigger event involving other groups and communities.
 - i. REFRESH?
 - ii. Budget
 - iii. Content
 The Board agreed that there should be some form of celebration and will discuss this further at future meetings.

Next meeting: Board meeting – 6th August 2025 7.00 p.m.