



Minutes of meeting 5/03/15. FDT HQ 7.30 pm.

Present: Prof Geoff Williams, Gordon Cowtan (chair), Holly O'Donnell, Iain Frazer, Jamie Pearson, Hugh Edmond, Matthew Black (Senior Energy Advisor), Kayt Howell (coordinator), Justyna Carey (Admin Assistant)

Apologies: Gordon Murray, David Howell

ACTION

Guest - Prof. Geoff Williams on feedback regarding funding proposals for Geothermal and AD feasibility studies etc.

PGW presented a brief background and stated that the next deadline call for proposals is 30.04. This requires a short document, no longer than 2 pages long, detailing expression of interest for the proposed research. The outcome should be in about 2 weeks time. If successful the candidates have 3 or 4 months more to prepare a detailed proposal. If the proposal is successful the project could start next year about March at the earliest. PGW mentioned possible cooperation with a university (Prof Paul Younger) or industry (NARECDE (NE England) <http://www.narecde.co.uk/>, renewables technologies, storage of Energy Solar Capture <http://solarcapturetechnologies.com>, deep geothermal <http://www.cluffgeothermal.com>, Local Energy Scotland <http://www.localenergyscotland.org>

GC summarised FDT's interests focusing on supplying electricity locally using smart meter technology, balancing energy usage and generating electricity locally. Usage of local windfarm and directing electricity to the village directly was suggested as a possibility. HE recalled that there is an old mine shaft in a wee glen at the foot of Fintry Hills. PGW expressed his interest and added that Prof Paul Younger could be interested in this project too.

PGW stressed that the projects funded by Innovate UK need to demonstrate really novel ideas. Local storage of electricity could be a good example. Taking a tested idea and adding an innovative factor could be one way to go. One example could be tracing an energy consumption on social and technological level and see how technology affects people on a social level. One possible way of collecting data and demonstrating this would be equipping

houses with a set of smart meters and monitoring them closely. He indicated FSRC as a possible example.

PGW stated that the current biggest technological challenges are delivering carbon neutral housing and developing energy generating technologies that have no visual impact in the environment.

1. Previous minutes.

HOD read out previous minutes and all agreed with the changes with the exclusion that the grant discussion should be put as a reserved business.

Again HOD raised a questions if all are happy with the current grant distribution. GC said that all is fine and current proposal should be treated as a trial version of grant system until AGM in October. He stressed that charity law regarding grants should be further investigated and applied to the grant criteria. KH summarized that the current grant criteria will be applied until further decision will be reached in April.

JC

2. Force 9.

JP reported in recent FCC response to F9 proposal. A general response of FCC is in favour but FCC feels that F9 does not engage well with communities. KH confirmed that she has seen letter form Steven Parks inviting FDT for a meeting. FDT is happy with engagement.

JP said that FCC is happy with recent development and will not object the new windfarm development but will be looking for a cash compensation. FDT was invited to join the investment. GC confirmed that the investment opportunity will not be ruled out.

3. Balgair

MB reported on recent development on Balgair site. Alternative Heat has started work on the site. A board of directors was formed to administrate the district heating project with 2 local volunteers but more members are needed. MB appealed for volunteers to come forward as board members for Balgair project.

MB reported on another difficulty that he came across while talking with residents. Some of them complained that the actual savings are not as high for them as the projected ones. MB believes that the difference is a result of differed original heating systems that the residents had. JP pointed out that it might be possible that people might turn the heating settings higher that they would do with their old system hence higher energy bills. HOD pointed out that it would be good to advise the residents not to turn up their heating settings too much.

MB also asked the board for a decision about the maintenance costs of the DH system when it is installed. There appears that there are high costs associated with 24 hour call out maintenance costs provided by Alternative Heat. After a considerable discussions the board came to conclusion to that it will be the best to investigate first what level of protection/warranty/monitoring Alternative Heat provides under the first year of the system's operation as it is provided under the warranty agreement. Depending on the AH answer it

might be that the board will decide to employ someone local to monitor the DH after its warranty expires.

Next MB enquired how the cash flow for the project could be arranged. Two issues were raised. First one was the initial payment of VAT on all bills and secondly increasing bills from Burness Paull. Referring to initial payment of the VAT GC asserted that he will look at the cash books and come back later with a solution. KH suggested to ask for the bill itemisation from Burness Paull.

Next MB reported on the immediate start of the project. The biobox is scheduled to be installed on 26.03. That allows couple of days to apply for RHI for the club house only.

MB

4. Post March 31st.

HOD acknowledged note in the February newsletter about upcoming changes to the FDT. She suggested to explain/dissipate more in the next newsletter. The note should include change of office hours and changes to funding.

JC, KH

5. SLCF

HOD and KH reported on upcoming interviews. The project manager position is already filled and there are further 4 post that need appropriate appointments. It is anticipated that the new project manager will help during the interview process. KH anticipated that by the end of March the recruitment process should be finished.

HOD, KH

6. FEET

KH reported on the recorded FEET loss of £5k over last financial year. HOD was concerned that there are families in the village that rely on the club as a primary car provider. KH reported on reviewing the legislation with regarding selling some of the FEET car and possible reinvestment of the money in a new car. KH stressed that the biggest issue of the club is lack of active members (10 active members at present) and the cars suffer from underuse.

GC and HOD believed that the best course of action will be to ask all FEET members to complete questionnaire informing that the current situation arises from underuse of the FEET fleet.

KH suggested that Car Plus needs to be informed of the club situation too. When making the decision the following issues need to be taken into consideration: car insurance, car tracking, return of deposits and outstanding memberships.

KH and JC to look further at the size of membership and use of cars, possible grant funding and sell/change of cars.

KH, JC

7. Grass cutting

JP reported that Stirling Council stopped grass cutting of the rugby field as it is not owned by SC. FCC and FSRC proposed to form a group of 8 grass cutters that could cut grass at the rugby fields. The cost of acquiring a grass cutting equipment is about £15k. JP stressed that Fintry Grass Cutters can approach SC and offer grass cutting services for the SC owned agreed and cut grass there at a reduced cost for SC. Additionally this initiative could generate some local jobs.

HOD suggested that FDT could contribute toward the FGC equipment via good will fund.

JP

8. Outdoor bowling

KH reported on her recent meeting with outdoors bowlers that are willing to donate the club area to community and are waiting for viable proposals for individuals or community groups that are willing to undertake the challenge. GC stated that so far no one came up with a sound plan. The OB's proposal will be published in upcoming Fintry Focus issue.

9. Sewage

GC reported on receiving a letter from a local resident regarding sewage plant. JP assured that the progress that Cicely Roy is making regarding the sewage plant is satisfactory. KH argued that the issue of the water treatment plant is part of the Fintry Masterplan that is being currently developed. The general understanding is that the current progress regarding local water treatment plant is as fast as it is possible. GC to send letter back to the local resident expressing board's views.

GC

10. Membership Fed of city and farm gardens.

KH reported in the renewal deadline for Fed of City and Farm Gardens. The board was in unison not to renew the membership.

11. Potential energy advisor consultancy with housing people

MB reported on being approached about energy advice consultancy. The board didn't see any conflict of interest in the proposal especially considering reduced number of hours of MB contract from April.

MB

12. CCF underspend - thoughts

KH reported of about £5k underspend, if there are any proposals for the outstanding funds they will need to be processed by the end of March. MB suggested to pursue desktop hydro survey. JP proposed to plant trees along the developed footpath from Fintry Manse toward Katy Rogers. KH warned that this does not meet CCF criteria.

Other suggestions were: appropriate signage around village, a wood storage next to bicycle shed at FSRC car park, footpath maintaining equipment, lawn mower, consultancy fee for FDT website upgrade.

Board members agreed to give it some thought and return to KH with a feedback.

Board, Staff

13. AOB

Fintry Masterplan: HOD feels that the submitted version of the FM is a good read but still has a considerable amount of errors. She suggested to ask AW for a final version that could be printed out and one hard copy could be circulated among board members. This way everyone could add comments and feedback on one copy.

Board

Next board meeting: 22 April 2015