



Minutes of the Board meeting held on
8th March 2023

Present/apologies for absence:

- **Present:** Iain Frazer (Treasurer), Anne Hislop (Chair), David Howell, Iain MacKay, Chris Robinson, Kayt Howell (Manager), Gordon Cowtan (Consultant), Kirsty Murray (Admin Officer)
- **Apologies:** Fran Hall

I. Conflict of Interest for any items listed on agenda (All)

- None

II. Financial report (IF)

- IF had circulated a spreadsheet prior to the meeting. As advised by the accountant, IF has been moving money from FREE to FDT. This is because money in the FREE account would attract corporation tax whereas FDT is a charity. The Balgair account is fine at the moment.

III. Balgair update (GC)

- GC has been getting information together for a project manager and has been working on a job description with input from KH and KM. He has had conversations with some renewable companies who may be interested in taking it on and has received a proposal from Natural Power.
- GC had a meeting with the Scottish Government (SG) recently but there was nothing of note to report. He has chased them up about the loan and should be hearing from Energy Savings Trust (EST) soon. This information will be mentioned in GC's report to be distributed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- An email has been received from Alan Fairfield (Balgair Residents' Association) outlining the residents preference for a heating system.
- The OFGEM payment which had been delayed has now been received.
- The system has been operating ok. There was one day when the boiler stopped working but GC was not told the reason why but suspected that the wood chips had run out. There were no complaints from the residents. Aggregated Micro Power (AMP) do not give FDT compensation if they allow the wood chips to run out and cause the gas boiler to be used but they do not charge for any call-outs to the boiler.

IV. Grants (KM)

- Distribution of grants is going well. There has been a constant stream of applications for the log grants – 69 have been approved to a total of around £2000. This scheme ends at the end of March. There have been lots of enquiries for the Energy Efficiency grants. 13 have been approved so far amounting to £11,743.36. Some have already supplied photographs of the finished work and receipts so the process is working. Information about the Fuel Payment grants from Energy Action Scotland (EAS) has been circulated to the Board. 19 payments of £500 each have been made. At the moment this is being paid from the FREE account but this will change after the AGM when the amendment to the Articles of Association has been made so that it can be paid from the FDT account.

V. Website (KH/KM)

- The sub-group met and approved the structure of the new website so work has begun on the design stage. A meeting is scheduled soon to look at progress so far but the ideas shown at the

last meeting looked really good. IF has sent some photos to the shared files which should be suitable for using on the website.

VI. AGM – 11/03/23 (KH)

- Agenda as per leaflet.
- KH will be at the Menzies Hall from 9 a.m. to start setting up. The AGM will be held in the Lesser Hall which will be set up ready to be used as a café once the AGM has finished. Attendees will be required to sign in upon arrival to ensure that everyone present is a member and eligible to vote. A quorum of 15 members (including Directors) is required. It was agreed that a show of hands was the easiest way for members to vote for or against the proposed amendment to the Articles of Association and to vote for candidates standing for the Board. DH & IM will be standing down but both wish to stand again so will give a short speech about why they want to remain on the Board. There is also space for one more Director and a resident has indicated that they wish to stand for election. Another resident has indicated interest but wishes to have a trial period before they commit to being a Director.
- The Repair Café will set up in the Main Hall when they arrive. Recyke-a-Bike will set up in the car park. Posts have been shared on Facebook to Fintry Buddies and other local communities. A representative from Share & Repair who are covering the costs will also be present. The event will finish at 3 p.m.

VII. IT outsourcing

- This has been discussed previously but not followed up. IT support is currently being done by GC. Someone with the skills to manage a Microsoft 365 subscription for a small business would be needed. GC has looked into this before and found that there were plenty of possibilities. **ACTION: GC to find the information found previously, KH to ask for advice from Development Trusts Association Scotland (DTAS).**
- There was discussion about also paying a company for hardware support i.e. leasing laptops etc. and to help with cyber security. **ACTIONS: KM to look into this and KH to check if the cybersecurity is covered by insurance.**

VIII. Future plans (KH/FH)

- KH and FH have been discussing possible events to be held after the transport event (22/04/23). One idea was to do something about food, growing and composting at the end of Spring/beginning of Summer and then something about preserving and pickling at the end of the Summer. It would be good to involve the primary school in this. Later in the year to tie in with circular economy and being carbon free an event looking at an event promoting a carbon free Christmas – locally sourced gifts, recycled gifts, home-made gifts and wrapping paper, craft fair workshops.

IX. Contracts – Board only Zoom meeting (date)

- This will be held on 22nd March 2023 at 7.30 p.m.

X. A.O.B.

- Thermal camera – the purchase of a thermal camera was put on hold following discussion about sub-contracting a third party to do a more detailed investigation looking at humidity and heat loss and produce a report for the home-owner. It was agreed that this was a good idea and it would be good to have this set up for next winter. **ACTION: KH to speak to DTAS for suggestions of companies that do this.**
- Vegetables & seeds – the purchase of seeds etc. was proposed to supplement the existing seed bank but it is already well stocked and established. There was a suggestion to provide peat free or wool based compost. **ACTION: KH to liaise with FH.**
- KH reminded the Board that she is on annual leave next week.
- Falck – GC and GF had met with Falck recently. They are changing their name to Renantis. They have been looking at the future of Earlsburn and have been speaking to the landowner about extending the lease. The end of life of the existing wind farm is 2030. They seemed keen to speak to GC about the new wind farm and ensure that FDT knew about it. They would not be averse to FDT investing in it. There would be around £5K paid annually to the local communities and there will be an opportunity for communities to invest in up to 10% of the wind farm. The existing wind farm would be scrapped. FDT should not have any financial liability with regard to this. There is also a planning application in at the moment for an extension to the current wind farm. There was some concern that this would be visible from

Stirling Castle. The power from this would go to Stirling. **ACTION: CR to look at the planning application and feed back to the Board before the next Board meeting.**

- Directors' packs – KM has been working on updating the Directors' packs and will circulate them after the AGM.

XI. Next meetings

- AGM – 11th March 10.30 a.m. at the Menzies Hall
- Directors only – 22nd March 7.30 p.m. by Zoom
- Board meeting – 29th March 7.30 p.m. at the Hub