



Minutes of the Board meeting held on

16th December 2020

A virtual meeting held via Google Meet

Present/apologies for absence:

- **Present:** Luke Emerton (Chair), Iain Frazer (Treasurer), Hugh Edmond, Anne Hislop (Vice chair), David Howell, Iain MacKay, Chris Robinson (Co.Sec.), Kayt Howell (Manager), Gordon Cowtan (Consultant), Pete Skabara
- **Apologies:** None

I. Meet Festive Dress Code

- Done

II. Have tittle of choice

- Done

III. Community Engagement

- Kayt had circulated her ideas for community engagement prior to the meeting. She felt that there were two aspects to community engagement – short term targets for the next four or five months incorporating the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and longer term futures goals.
- Kayt noted that when sending out the newsletter recently she had noticed that the members list has changed very little over the last few years. In that time, there have been several new residents in Fintry but not many new members to the FDT. It could be that the new residents are not aware of the FDT and that it would be good to find a way to connect with them. Iain M pointed out that many new residents have joined Fintry Buddies on Facebook so this might be a good way to reach people. Kayt suggested a 'Happy New Year' post with information about the FDT and a welcome to new members. Kayt also noted that the newsletters were still a good way of communicating with members and there is usually a reasonable amount of interaction with them. Anne agreed that Fintry Buddies was a good starting place to provide a small amount of information to new residents about the FDT and Hugh suggested including a link to the FDT website. Kayt felt that the website needed updating before people were directed to it as it contains some out of date information.
- Chris had seen a post on Fintry Buddies recently where someone had asked for advice/information about Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP). Nobody had pointed them in the direction of the FDT and this highlights the need to raise awareness of the FDT and what they can help with. Anne said that she had seen the post but had not mentioned the FDT in her response as the FDT no longer employs an energy adviser who could assist people. Kayt said that if she receives similar enquiries via email, she provides a link to Home Energy Scotland (HES). Gordon agreed that HES is the best source of information regarding home energy advice and that in the longer term it is definitely worth maintaining a strong relationship with HES. Kayt said that a similar post had been on Fintry Buddies recently asking for information about the installation

of an electric vehicle charging point at home. Kayt had responded with a link to Energy Savings Trust (EST) but her response was not done as an FDT response. Luke agreed that it would be good to strengthen the FDT's relationship with HES and EST with links to them on the FDT website and maybe an information pack about what the HES and EST offer.

- Iain F pointed out that there is information about the FDT on the noticeboard in the Sports Centre and maybe this could be expanded to include leaflets from HES and EST or just links to their websites. Kayt thought a range of relevant leaflets on a table in the Sports Centre for a short period of time at some point in the future would be good and is a simple way to engage with the community.
- Luke wondered if it would be useful to create a short survey to try and find out what people are interested in. This could then feed in to what happens at the AGM. Kayt said that surveys like this had been tried before and were often only completed by people who are already members who have answered similar surveys before. She thought a survey link could be included in the proposed post on Fintry Buddies in the New Year.
- Gordon said he was aware of a number of policies currently being developed by the UK and Scottish Governments that will eventually become tangible initiatives e.g. new funding for renewable heating systems for householders. He felt it would be good for the FDT to keep an eye out for things like this and include them in the FDT newsletters. Luke agreed and mentioned various grants and loans that are available for small businesses and community groups which are often short lived and easily missed. It would be good to keep on top of things like that and keep the community informed. David said he had also seen new incentives being offered recently such as a company offering grants of £5K to householders who install one of their new generation of ASHP's. Kayt thought it might be a good idea to send out smaller newsletters on a monthly basis that could include any new relevant information. Luke agreed that this was a good idea.
- Luke suggested that early next year a wider discussion should be held to look at the ideas and plans that had been developed previously with regard to the Futures project. Kayt agreed that it was important to do this as the time when the FDT's income will increase substantially is fast approaching.

IV. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

- Luke felt that last year's AGM and sustainability day had been very successful. It had been a good way to involve new residents and raise awareness of the FDT and what they do and also to involve outside agencies.
- Kayt pointed out that plans for the AGM would depend on whether it will be a physical meeting or an online meeting. It definitely needs to be held by late Spring to fit in with the requirements of OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator) and the FDT's articles of memorandum/association. In the New Year a date needs to be set which is within the confines of those requirements.
- Kayt said that she will get in touch with the accountants to find out when the annual accounts will be finalised as they need to be available to FDT members prior to the AGM.
- David hoped that the weather at the end of April may be suitable for activities to be outside. Luke agreed and thought that Kayt's suggestion to hold the AGM at the old bowling club was a good one as it has a good outdoor space.

~~V. Christmas Karaoke~~

VI. Social Banter

Done

VII. Date of next meeting

- Wednesday January 27th 2021, 7 p.m.