



Minutes of the Board meeting held on

18th January 2022

A virtual meeting held via Zoom

Present/apologies for absence:

- **Present:** Luke Emerton (Chair), Iain Frazer (Treasurer), Anne Hislop (Vice-Chair), David Howell, Iain MacKay, Chris Robinson (Company Secretary), Josh Thornhill, Kayt Howell (Manager), Gordon Cowtan (Consultant)
- **Apologies:** None

I. Financial Report -general

- Luke thanked Iain F for sending through the financial report.
- Iain F reported that there is a cash flow issue with Fintry Community Energy (FCE). This is partly due to Nottingham not paying very quickly. Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is also due soon. The work done by Aggregated Micro Power (AMP) to bypass the monitors should be covered by EnviroEnergy, but FDT may need to pay some of the invoices. If this happens, FCE may need a loan from FDT.

II. Financial Report - AGM

- Kayt wanted to check that everything was in place for finalising the end of year accounts prior to the AGM. The accountant had emailed some questions requiring an answer from the Board before the accounts can be finalised regarding the wording of the losses taken by FCE. Luke had also asked some questions about the loans to FCE from FDT and whether they have all been recorded. Gordon confirmed that all loans were recorded, and this record was useful to highlight to the Scottish Government (SG) the need for the initial loan to be wiped out. Gordon also confirmed that the draft accounts had been circulated to FCE. There had also been a question from the accountant about the Fintry Renewable Energy Distribution (FRED) account. **ACTION: Gordon to contact the accountants regarding the FRED account. Kayt to confirm with the accountants that the Board are happy for the accounts to be finalised.**

III. Review agenda for AGM

- This will be similar to the agenda used for last year's AGM.

IV. Review PowerPoint for AGM

- Last year's PowerPoint will be revamped.
- A new Chair will be elected at the end of the meeting so Luke will chair the meeting until then.
- The two longest serving Directors are required to stand down at each AGM but can then stand for re-election. This year it is Anne and Chris.
- Iain M asked what the maximum and minimum numbers of Directors were required/allowed on the Board. Kayt replied that the Board can consist of seven elected Directors and two appointed Directors. The minimum number required is four.
- 15 members are required to be present in the first half hour of the AGM for it to go ahead. Otherwise, the meeting has to be rescheduled.

V. Review reports – Consultant & Manager for AGM

- These will be similar to last year's reports and can be circulated prior to the meeting if required.

VI. Election Plans

- See reserved business.

VII. IT help to run meeting

- Pete Skabara has agreed to host the meeting again. Gordon asked if it would be useful to have a rehearsal beforehand. Kayt agreed and said she would contact Pete to arrange this. Gordon felt it was important to check that the process for electing Directors was watertight and transparent. Kayt thought the voting system used on Zoom would cover this. Gordon said he would check.

VIII. Balgair Update

- Gordon had circulated a short report prior to the meeting.
- December and the first part of January had been taken up with dealing with issues with the monitors which had resulted in some households being without heating and hot water. The main issue has now been resolved but there are still a few smaller issues to fix.
- Gordon will check the invoices from AMP regarding the bypassing of the monitors and pass the relevant ones on to Enviroenergy to settle.
- An engineer from Enviroenergy will be on site on February 21st to update the software on all the monitors and sort out any other issues.
- The terms and conditions with Harley Hadow (HH) have now been resolved and a formal letter of engagement has been sent. Work should start fairly soon and be finished by the end of March.
- Gordon has been in contact with Evelyn Tweed's office (ET) (MSP) to check on their communication with Amy Tickell (AT) from the Scottish Government. They confessed to having missed an email regarding this and will act on it straightaway now it has been brought to their attention. David asked if this would now give the FDT some leverage with ET but Gordon said no leverage is needed as ET is completely on board with helping out.
- GC has been in touch with Ken Brady from Energy Saving Trust (EST) with regard to having FDT's loan holiday extended until July.
- Amy Tickle from SG hadn't yet been in touch with Ken about a three-way conversation regarding the future of the loan.
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IX. Consultant's report - general

- Gordon had circulated his report prior to the meeting.
- RESERVED BUSINESS

X. Manager's report - general

- Kayt had circulated a report prior to the meeting along with her end of year report.
- In the end of year report, Kayt had highlighted 'the need to do a full risk assessment of our financial position, our structure and our governance. We need to make sure we are transparent, able, and supported in how we manage our funding'. Kayt is concerned that due diligence is essential to get things right and ensure that the money is handled correctly once the mortgage is paid off. **ACTION: Agenda item for the next meeting – who can FDT talk to to ensure everything is done correctly with their income once the mortgage is paid off.**
- Kayt reported that she has built up a good working relationship with Dollar Community Development Trust (DCDT) and had recently been discussing the possibility of developing accreditation for communities which had achieved net zero status. Local Energy Scotland and other groups have shown great interest and excitement in this idea. Kayt has also mentioned to DTAS and they are also keen to get involved. Kayt has made it clear that FDT and DCDT do not have the funding and manpower to make this happen but would be willing to act as guinea pigs to see how it would work. The Board were enthusiastic about this idea and Kayt asked any Directors who wished to be involved to let her know.
- Josh asked about the results of the Fintry Buddies survey. **ACTION: Agenda item for next meeting – survey results.**

XI. A.O.B.

- Jubilee Weekend: Anne had attended a meeting regarding the Jubilee weekend (3rd – 5th June). The FCC is keen to involve as many community groups as possible and to facilitate discussions so that events are synchronised. Anne had agreed to ask the Board if they wanted to be involved. The rough plan at the moment is a quiz night on Thursday 3rd, a pet show on Friday 4th, a family ceilidh on Saturday 5th (with the possibility of a street long 'Strip the Willow') and a fun day on Sunday 6th at the Bowling Hub. There may also be a beacon on Dunmore Hill. Anne suggested that FDT may like to have a stall at the fun day that offered

- something fun and fresh. Kayt felt that the opportunity to engage with the community should not be missed and the Board should think about how they would like to be involved. David suggested a family treasure hunt. Kayt thought it would be possible to put a sustainability/green slant on a treasure hunt. Iain M wondered about the FDT sponsoring a barbeque at the fun day. Josh suggested a nature trail along the river walk. Kayt suggested inviting a conservation group for example, Buglife and also mentioned Eco Drama – a group who perform plays/shows for children with an environmental slant. Anne said that the next meeting regarding the Jubilee weekend is on the 1st February and confirmed that she was happy to attend.
- Charge Place Scotland: Kayt had received an email from Charge Place Scotland with regard to the electric vehicle charging point at the Sports Centre. This is the first correspondence since charges were introduced and was to say that information about the charging point would be sent soon.
 - Housing Development: Kayt referred to the housing development proposed on land alongside the Castle Drive. FCC has asked for questions to be sent to them which they can raise with the developers at a consultation meeting which they have been invited to. The fact that the community council has been invited to such a meeting indicates that at least 50 houses are planned. Anne confirmed that FCC is keen to have questions to put to the developers and encouraged the FDT and the Board members as individuals to pass on any concerns. Kayt felt that questions need to be asked about the environmental impact that such a development would have. Chris felt that questions needed to be asked about how eco-friendly the houses would be with regard to solar panels etc. David agreed and suggested that higher standards than are actually required by Stirling Council should be requested. David was also concerned about flooding issues in the area of the proposed development. Gordon was concerned about issues around biodiversity. Iain M was concerned about the infrastructure of the village with the addition of so many new houses. In particular, the water treatment works which is already undersized for the number of houses in the village. He felt that two separate systems should be installed – one for rainwater and one for sewage so that in times of heavy rain, sewage does not end up in the river. Anne confirmed that this has been an ongoing problem for many years and despite the best efforts of FCC, nothing ever seems to get done to rectify the problem. Gordon recalled that the site had been looked at previously for housing, but proposals have always been rejected by Scottish Water because the water works does not have capacity for more sewage. Chris agreed to help Kayt to draft questions/concerns from FDT to send to FCC.
 - IT recycling project: Kayt updated the Board on the upcoming IT recycling project. Dougie Spence has been very helpful and there have been good responses so far. Kayt asked the Board if they were happy to surrender laptops which had been used by previous staff members, a desktop that is no longer used and two printers. The Board agreed. There will be a cabinet in the bowls hall at the Sports Centre and equipment can be moved to the FDT hut if the cabinet gets full. There will be a disclaimer for people to sign and to list the equipment they have left. All data will be cleared and the FDT will receive a report about what has been done. Anything that can be reused will be sent on and everything else will be stripped down and components reused wherever possible.
 - Luke reminded the Board that someone will need to take on the role of Chair soon.

Next meeting: 2nd February 2022 – AGM (7.30 p.m.)
Next Board meeting - TBC