



Minutes of meeting 21/01/15. FDT HQ 7.30 pm.

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

Apologies: Gordon Murray

#### **ACTION**

DH opened the meeting inviting Prof Geoff Williams to give short presentation on different possibilities on funding schemes for energy projects.

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

Prof Williams summarised his current involvement in a project in County Durham where he is helping to develop technology utilising ground water source in an old mine to create a renewable district heating system.

Prof. Williams' expertise lies in providing advice on development of smart tools for a community/community enterprise. There are various funding opportunities from Technology Strategy Board (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/innovate-uk>), Scottish Enterprise (<http://www.scottish-enterprise.com/>). Fintry as a community offers a possibility of amalgamating different projects and enterprises and creating a test board where different projects and technology ideas can be tested and answers can be gained.

DH enquired about the length of the possible collaboration and a generated wealth, how it would be split and distributed.

Prof Williams answered that the project value would be in bringing new technologies together and demonstrating that they can work in real time scenarios. The project will not only have a financial gain but also a social, economic and environmental. Fintry as a community needs to come together and understand what its future goals are and verbalise them. Any financial gain during the project will need to be returned to the funders however after finalising the project all the financial gain can be for the profit of the community. The FDT board are to consider possibilities to discuss with GW on his next visit in March

#### **BOARD**

### 1. Balgair status update.

MB reported on a progress of the Balgair project and stated that there were couple of delays but at the moment the lease is signed, Burness Paull have prepared the NPower agreements. The next step will be to pass all information to Alternative Heat and present a formal letter of acceptance. The first bio-boxes can be installed in 6 weeks. They need to be commissioned and approved before hooking up to the system.

HOD pointed out that proper documentation trail for all e-mail conversations and project documentation need to be maintained. MB agreed to upload all documents to google docs.

**MB**

MB reported that legal costs of the project were very high. There is a chance to apply for EcoGrants and Stirling Council will match the amount of money granted by Eco Grants.

MB informed Board that he applied for more funds to Robertson Trust. The decision is expected to be by the end of March 2015.

To further reduce the cost of the project MB looked into possibility of changing the arrangement of the feeding system of the Biomass boiler. Although a vertical feeding system had greater initial costs in a long run this arrangement is cheaper as it reduces the fuel costs.

MB, Board to send letter to Alternative Heat, finalise contracts, cover legal fees.

**MB, Board**

### 2. Grants - when, how many, amounts and criteria.

HOD opened the discussion stating that from April 2015, when CCF funding runs out new rules for Fintry Warm Home Grants needs to be implemented. KH reported that there were 167 grants issued in total for the year ending October 2014. 12 grants have been applied for and approved, since then.

DH stated that at the previous board meeting a nearly unanimous vote was taken and 5 grants £10k was agreed on. DH expressed concern that this vote was now being ignored in favour of a different approach, which had not been discussed by the board.

DH wished it to be noted that his proposal to ask the membership of FDT to comment on the allocation of grants was rejected by the board at the previous meeting. A significant discussion opened on various options and grant schemes including interest free loans, feasibility studies for new emerging renewables technologies, lottery type grants, differentiating the grant amount and setting the final amount depending on personal circumstances of the individual who applied.

After this extended consideration it was concluded that the total grant money will be distributed as follows: 2 grants of £10K each, 4 grants of £5k each and 20 grants £500 each. If there is a case that no £10k grants are approved then at next AGM this will be assessed and the outstanding money will be distributed as agreed by the FDT members. The final agreement was reached without taking a formal vote.

(HOD pointed out that any income gained from the installation and use of FDT funded renewable heating system should go to charity)

**KH**

### 3. Workshops - Lots of weekend work coming up.

KH made everybody aware of the upcoming workshops from FDT and directed to the website for all details.

#### 4. Estonians visit - 26<sup>th</sup> Jan.

KH reported on a planned visit of 30 Estonians particularly interested in renewable projects being carried out in Fintry and encouraged board members to join the visit. HOD agreed to come at lunch time. GC hoped to attend.

**KH MB**

#### 5. CCF final report.

KH reported on the progress of the CCF final report and urged board members to be involved in proofreading. The request to look into the final report from a Fintry resident can be granted when the report is finalised and officially submitted to CCF, i.e. after April 2015.

**KH**

#### 6. FEET - running costs, selling, repositioning, and administration.

KH reported on a recent recall of Nissan Leaf and repair cost of Ford Fusion (£650 to repair the faulty fan blower and £450 +labour + VAT for possible repair of the faulty wind screen). Furthermore she said that Carplus withdrew any further funding to support running costs of any rural car club which includes ours. MB stated that quick survey of the Auto Trader prices shows that it is possible to sell the Ford Fusion for about £5k and Mazda for about £7k.

KH agreed to look into purchase agreements of the both cars and contact Carplus. KH to establish how the cars can be sold and if the profit can be invested back into the club.

MB reported that the EV had most day to day use and there are about 10 regular users of the FEET cars at the moment.

The vote was taken and all agreed that the best course of action will be to sell Ford Fusion after all essential repairs are carried out (repair the faulty fan only).

KH informed that the Carplus was investigating a possibility of leaving one of FEET cars at the Stirling rail station. All agreed that such an arrangement will require too much of administration time and fees and should not be pursued.

**KH**

#### 7. FDT address change

All agreed to change the FDT address to Fintry Sports and Recreation Club, Fintry Sports & Recreation Club, Kippen Road, Fintry Glasgow G63 0YA. This will take time to contact all and register the change with professional bodies and banks etc.

#### 8. SLCF - Grant awarded - next steps, Board collective needed, meeting for 4th of February with TS

KH confirmed that TS will be the main partner for the newly awarded project from CCF and all jobs from this project need to be advertised and interviews need to be arranged by both FDT and TS

board members. The initial meeting of both groups needs to be organised shortly. IF suggested if TS members could come to Fintry sometime next week (week starting 2.02.15). KH agreed to contact TS and negotiate a suitable date for all. If the meeting takes place in Fintry then IF, MB, DH, KH and HOD will be able to attend. The agenda of the meeting will be the decisions on the jobs/positions provided in the grant and the general setting up process.

**KH**

9. Events attendance - SR Conference Edinburgh 25 March, and LES parliamentary reception

GC agreed to go to the SR Conference and Edinburgh, 25<sup>th</sup> March. It was agreed that he can claim expenses, KH to arrange. There were no volunteers available to SPREEE conference or LES parliamentary reception. MB agreed to attend CARES conference on 17-18 March in Stirling.

**GC, KH, MB**

10. Budget discussion. See email sent by HOD 19/01/15.

HOD distributed among all present a summary of a budget. The budget forecasted total outgoing for grants and support for businesses, income from loan and other repayments and amount held in the reserves. HOD confirmed that FCC will take ownership of the Community Garden. KH informed that bikes still need to be kept and maintained by FDT due to initial agreement with Cycle Scotland. KH stressed that they need to be maintained regularly otherwise it would void the insurance (£500/year). The discussion moved on to how to increase usage and income from the bikes. DH suggested to again approach the Holiday Park and Culcreuch Castle Hotel and encourage locals and visitors to use bikes on regular basis.

**KH**

11. Masterplan - Read and feedback on draft as sent last week.

IF and HOD agreed that the version of Masterplan supplied was looking more like a draft and not a final version that could proof read. GC agreed that parts of current version of the documents are good and the pictures look good. However it still needs to be worked on and Fintry logo design needs to be discussed further. There is no proper ending or conclusions to the documents as yet.

All agreed that when final version is completed they will be happy to read it for feedback.

**KH**

12. AOB

- Income from solar panel at the nursery roof.

HOD enquired about an income from the solar panels at the nursery roof and asked if that income could be used to support school's woodland area. She stated that recently children were not able to use to woodland due to vandalism and neglect. She proposed that school can employ a woodland caretaker for about ½ day per month and the income from solar panels at the nursery building could cover the costs. KH confirmed that the income from solar panels is kept separately and can be used

when needed. IF pointed out that it might be best to give the requested amount to PTA as oppose to directly to the school and the PTA can pass it on further.

**HOD**

- Lighting at the Menzies Hall

MB reported on an enquiry from the Menzies hall committee about covering the cost of a change of electric bulbs at the hall. The hall needs bulbs replaced in the main and the lesser hall. After short discussion it was agreed that the cost of the bulbs will be covered for up to £500 however the hall committee will need to cover the labour cost of the replacement (possible scaffolding, work hours).

**MB**

- Visit to a West Lothian community

MB reposted that he was approached by a community from West Lothian inviting him to give them an advice on energy efficiency. GC agreed that time allowing it will be good to go.

**MB**

Next board meeting: 5 March 2015