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**Minutes of the Board meeting held on**  
22<sup>nd</sup> June 2022

**Present/apologies for absence:**

- **Present:** Iain Frazer (Treasurer), Fran Hall, Anne Hislop (Vice-chair), David Howell, Iain MacKay, Josh Thornhill (Chair), Gordon Cowtan (Consultant) (linked by Zoom), Kayt Howell (Manager)
- **Apologies:** Chris Robinson (Company Secretary)

**I. Approval of minutes and actions arising**

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
- ACTION: Kayt to circulate an email with final details of each event at the Jubilee event and who is involved. Done.
- ACTIONS: Kayt to make enquiries about the cost with WS and also look online. Chris to speak to Jamie Turner to see if Duncan has an A1 printer. Done.
- ACTION: Gordon to circulate some links to the Board. Done.
- ACTION: Chris to complete paperwork for Companies House and sign off the FDT policies review. **Ongoing. Some requirements for Companies House are now overdue.**
- ACTION: Chris to speak to Callum again to check his availability for cutting up the timber on the castle drive. **Ongoing.**

**II. Financial report (IF)**

- Iain F had circulated his report prior to the meeting. The FREE account is looking good. There may be a cash flow issue coming up with Balgair. Iain F will pay some bills tomorrow and have a look at what is coming up in the next couple of weeks but may need a loan of around £2K from the FDT. An RHI payment is due at the end of June/beginning of July and a VAT repayment is due soon. Fuel costs are always more than income though. An invoice has been received for the Harley Haddow (HH) report (£12K) and Iain F will transfer that once everyone is happy with it. Money will also be transferred from the FREE account to the FDT account once grants start being paid out. Iain F noted that the large amount of money in the FREE account is not accruing interest and wondered if this needed to be moved to a different account particularly since interest rates have just gone up and may go up again. **ACTION: Iain F to look at what the Bank of Scotland is offering in savings accounts where the money is not tied up for an amount of time.**
- IT equipment has been purchased through the FCE account so that VAT can be claimed back.

**III. Balgair – reserved business**

**IV. Review of consultation events - All**

- Kayt had circulated her Manager's report prior to the meeting.
- Kayt had not had chance to consolidate all the suggestions that had been made from the consultations. It will be relatively straightforward to record the answers given at the History Night in relation to the four key questions that had been asked.
- Kayt felt that the History Night had been very successful with a good mix of people from different backgrounds that were able to see things from outside of the FDT and this had been very valuable. Fran mentioned that she had had an interesting conversation with Rachel (Foundation Scotland) about investing and managing large amounts of money for Trusts. Kayt confirmed that Rachel is a good supporter of the FDT and a good source of information and advice. Kayt reported that she had received lots of positive feedback from the people who attended the event with people saying that they had enjoyed the evening and had not fully

appreciated everything that the FDT had done over the years. David agreed that it had been a positive event and that the format worked well. He also thought it was good to be reminded about the history of the FDT and what they have achieved so far. Fran noted that it had been useful for her as a new Director and felt that when the event was re-run for the community there would be some people who would be reminded of what the FDT have done and some newer residents who would learn a lot about the FDT. Fran felt that splitting the group into smaller groups had led to good discussion. Kayt agreed that this type of situation enables discussion of new ideas and helps participants to come up with ideas that they may not have come up with on their own. David also noted that people had come up with ideas that were not just about Fintry and Kayt agreed that this was the case due to having people there who were not Fintry residents and had lots of experience. Iain M reported that one participant had suggested that the FDT buy the primary school and Kayt recalled that the reason for this was to anchor the community, invest in the youth and bring in new families who know that the school is there. The school would then be leased back to Stirling Council.

- Iain F mentioned that he had been approached by a resident who had heard about the large amounts of money that would be coming to the FDT in the near future. Josh said that this was the reason for doing the consultations and ensuring that the FDT were not perceived to be making decisions for the community without the community's input.
- Josh thanked Kayt and Gordon for putting together the evening and to David Smith (DS) for delivering the presentation. A suggestion was made to give a donation to the museum for allowing the FDT to hold the event there. An amount of £100 was agreed. The amount spent on refreshments was £50. Everyone agreed that DS had done a really good job.
- Kayt mentioned that, during the process of getting information together for the History Night, a lot of interesting documents had been re-discovered including the masterplan that was created with Lateral North and Ann Winther five or six years ago. Kayt offered to share this with the Board as a lot of it is relevant to what the FDT are trying to do next. Josh felt this would be worthwhile.
- Josh referred to the Jubilee celebrations and felt it would have been nice to have more engagement. Fran had been surprised at the number of people who did not know what the FDT was and what they did. Kayt noted that this was an indicator of how many new families had moved into the village since the FDT was most active. Anne also felt that people who had benefitted from loft insulation etc. had not necessarily engaged with the FDT since then and would not know about other things the FDT had done and are doing. Fran also felt that it had been a good opportunity to talk to people about climate change issues in general as well. She felt that now was a good time to have a relaunch and make sure the website is up to date so that everyone knows what the FDT is about and hopefully get more engagement.

**V. Long term financial management - All**

- Agenda item moved to next meeting.

**VI. Newsletter and Balgair statement - KH**

- Agenda item moved to next meeting. **ACTION: Kayt to draft and circulate to the Board.**

**VII. Consultation next steps - All**

- Josh felt that the next step should be a Community History Night. This would be open to all with invitations sent to everyone in the village. Kayt said invitations would be printed out and put through peoples' letter boxes. Josh suggested preparing a document which outlined the FDT in a nutshell and explained what was planned i.e. community consultations including the History Night. There could also be an application form to join the FDT or a link to the application form on the website. Fran thought it would be better to provide the link but then to have application forms at the event. Kayt agreed and felt that many people would not fill in a paper form that came through the door. Josh asked if it would just be an invitation or if it would also have a potted history of the FDT. Kayt suggested that this could be done by providing links to the information on the website and mentioning the link on Fintry Buddies rather than putting it all on paper. Anne commented that all Directors need to help with posting invitations through letter boxes as it is too much work for just two or three people. Iain M wondered if the local postman would be able to distribute them. Josh asked if everyone was in agreement with printing something off and distributing it to all households. Josh felt this should contain a brief summary of FDT's aims and objectives as some people will have no idea who the FDT are and may be unlikely to go online to look. Anne thought it might be worthwhile mentioning the increased income in the near future and asking for people's input in how to

spend the money. David mentioned that when the FDT had been awarding grants to householders, this had been a great way to draw people in to engage with the FDT. Josh suggested mentioning five of the most successful things FDT have done in the past as a reminder to residents old and new and then ask the question what do you want to do next? Gordon was concerned about mentioning large sums of money and then giving the community a blank page as he has heard a lot of stories of communities being ripped apart in similar situations. He felt that the FDT needs to be careful about what they are asking and about what peoples' expectations are as a result of it. He liked the idea of stating what the FDT's aims and objectives are and asking for help with how to achieve this rather than just a blank sheet of paper asking the community how the FDT should spend the large amounts of money. Kayt agreed that just asking the community how the money should be spent may not take into account investment opportunities or long term legacy plans. Josh agreed that it is a good idea to be prudent. Fran felt that something could be added to the presentation which will be delivered at the History Night to refresh/remind the community what the FDT are aiming for so that they can keep that in mind during the ensuing discussions. Kayt thought that whatever is put through peoples' doors needs to be kept to a minimum – preferably postcard size that can be stuck on the fridge. Josh summarised what will be on the History Night invitation: this is who we are; this is what we've done in the past; be a part of the future. Kayt proposed planning for the History Night to happen in September and pointed out that Directors would be on holiday over the summer and it would be difficult to get responses from everyone. Josh noted that it was difficult to get responses from the whole Board generally and Kayt felt that a system needed to be established so that things could move on faster. **ACTION: Kayt to draft a History Night invitation with the other suggested points and circulate to the Board.**

**VIII. Website designer and manager - All**

- Agenda item moved to next meeting. Kayt needs a brief off the Board with an indication of what they want on the website before she can move forward on this. Fran offered to set up the website.

**IX. Windfall – reserved business**

**X. Shelloch and Earlsburn extension proposals - All**

- Chris has more information about this. Josh suggested a holding measure of some sort so that the FDT do not miss anything. Josh suggested that Kayt attended any future consultation meetings with the windfarm developers as the FDT needed some sort of presence to find out what was going on. David mentioned that the website indicated that although the meetings have happened they are still taking comments. Kayt confirmed that she had sent a link to the Directors so that they could comment. A response to the consultation via the link will save Kayt a lot of time and she is happy to consolidate comments from the Board and send it via the link. David asked if the response was going to be as a Board or as individual Directors. Josh felt that FDT need to have a conversation with Falck requesting that Falck involve the FDT in the future as they are interested to be involved in the process. Josh was concerned that the FDT get passed over in the process but that they were the group who are set up to deal with any community income. Kayt noted that Chris was the person best placed to deal with this situation. Anne wasn't sure if Fintry would be in the catchment area to receive any money from the Shelloch wind farm and Kayt agreed that although this may be the case, there may be money from the Earlsburn extension. Josh wanted the wind farm developers to be aware that FDT were the group to speak to if there is any income due to Fintry. Iain M wondered if it would be possible to repeat the process that had happened at Earlsburn and for the FDT to buy a turbine or a share in the wind farm. Kayt said this was something that could be discussed once the FDT had registered their interest. **ACTION: Josh to ask Chris to register the FDT's interest with the wind farm developers.**

**XI. Repair workshop proposals by Hub committee - KH**

- **ACTION – Kayt to speak to David Smith about how the FDT can be involved. A date has already been set.**

**XII. Directors training – SCVO Essential Trustees Training - JT**

- Agenda item moved to next meeting.

**XIII. Summer period & holidays – JT**

- Josh felt it was strange to have a summer break from meetings, particularly when a lot of decisions need to be made. David felt it was fine to deal with decisions by email using the system which has been made previously where emails are marked with 'Decision needs to be made'. Josh was concerned that even when emails are marked in this way, not everyone responds and that having meetings was a better way to get issues sorted. Fran suggested a system whereby an assumption of agreement would be made if people did not respond to the emails but other people did not think this was a good idea. Josh asked if people wanted to have a month off meetings. Kayt and Fran thought it was more that people are away and so it was difficult to arrange meetings. Josh said that as long as there were enough Directors present that it was not necessary to have everybody present. David confirmed that decisions could be made as long as four Directors were present. Josh also pointed out that if Directors knew they were going to miss meetings they could make their thoughts known by email and Fran agreed that this would work as long as the agenda was sent out in advance. Josh was concerned about the ongoing issues that need to be dealt with and could not be left until after the summer. Kayt and Anne agreed that there were big decisions to be made and it would be better to continue with meetings. Iain M admitted that he was not always the best at responding to emails in time but was finding it difficult to manage all FDT issues with other things going on. Iain F said he was away next week and would deal with financial issues as much as possible before he left but apart from that would be around for most of the summer. Fran suggested setting up an automatic email reply when people were on holiday so that the rest of the group would know why someone was not responding. Kayt said that would be helpful.
- Josh did not feel that Kayt needed to ask the Board's approval for her holidays. Kayt noted that there was a record of her annual leave allowance on One Drive if anyone wanted to look at it.

**XIV. A.O.B.**

- Iain M mentioned the meeting coming up on Monday about the proposed housing development along the castle drive. Fran said that she was hoping to attend.

Next meetings: 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 7.30 p.m to discuss the HH report prior to the meeting with the Scottish Government and to pick up on agenda items not covered in this meeting. Josh also proposed using an hour of the meeting to discuss how to use the windfall money in the short term.  
24<sup>th</sup> August 2022, 7.30 p.m.