



Minutes of the Board meeting held on

23rd February 2022

A virtual meeting held via Zoom

Present/apologies for absence:

- **Present:** Iain Frazer (Treasurer), Fran Hall, Anne Hislop (Vice-chair), David Howell, Iain MacKay, Josh Thornhill, Gordon Cowtan (Consultant)
- **Apologies:** Kayt Howell (Manager)

As Vice-chair, Anne led the meeting to begin with until the appointment of Chair and other office bearers (Agenda point 2).

Anne thanked Gordon for amending and circulating the agenda.

I. Welcome new Board member

- Anne welcomed Fran and said the Board were delighted to have her join them. Anne feels that it is great to have another female Board member. Kayt and Anne had met with Fran earlier in the week to give Fran some information about the FDT and Anne noted that it was good to hear Fran's ideas.

II. Appointment of Chair and other office bearers

- Following Luke's resignation at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) earlier this month, Anne asked if anyone wanted to put themselves forward to be Chair. Josh offered and gave a brief outline of why he would like to be Chair. Anne asked if there were any objections. There were not.
- Anne said that she was happy to remain as Vice-chair.
- Iain F will remain as Treasurer but felt it would be useful to have someone 'waiting in the wings' to take over next year as it takes a long time to get signatories etc. changed with the bank. He noted that it had been agreed previously that there should be a maximum term of office for each post and that he would be standing down as Treasurer next year. Currently only David and Iain F can authorise payments so it would be useful to get someone else authorised. **ACTION: Board members to think about whether they would be willing to take over as Treasurer next year and discuss this at the next meeting.**
- Chris had not notified the Board that he did not wish to continue as Company Secretary so it was assumed that he would remain as such.
- Anne asked the Board to vote to accept the office bearers as mentioned above and all agreed.

Anne handed over to Josh to Chair the rest of the meeting.

II.i Approval of minutes of last meeting and actions arising.

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
- **ACTION:** Gordon to contact the accountants regarding the Fintry Renewable Energy Distribution (FRED) account. Kayt to confirm with the accountants that the Board are happy for the accounts to be finalised. Gordon reported that he had received the final FRED account today and was happy to circulate to Directors. The closing of FRED will now go ahead.
- **ACTION:** Agenda item for the next meeting – discussion of what to do with May's income from Earlsburn. **ACTION: Add to agenda for next meeting.**
- **ACTION:** Agenda item for the next meeting – who can FDT talk to in order to ensure everything is done correctly with their income once the mortgage is paid off. This was discussed briefly and it was agreed that it was important to ensure that due diligence; risk assessment etc. was all done properly. David felt it would be useful for someone outside of the

FDT to provide an objective viewpoint to look at the way the FDT is set up and how it operates. Josh referred to the Cara Gillespie proposal done last year and suggested that they follow up on this with her. David agreed that although there would be some cost involved in this, it would be money well spent to make sure that everything is being done properly and maybe get some suggestions for different ways to use the increased income. **ACTIONS: Gordon to circulate Cara Gillespie's proposal to Directors. Discussion of Directors' ideas for the best use of the increased income to be added to next month's agenda.**

- ACTION: Agenda item for next meeting – results of the Fintry Buddies survey. Josh thought Kayt had some results. **ACTION: Add to agenda for next meeting.**

III. AGM review

- Josh asked for people's thoughts. He thought that the AGM had gone well and thanked everyone involved. He felt it had been upbeat and positive.
- David agreed that it was a very positive meeting that had gone well. He mentioned that Pete had done well with the technology and sent thanks to him. He said it had been good to be reminded of all the good things that the FDT have done/are doing as it is very easy to get bogged down with the issue at Balgair.
- Fran also felt that the AGM had gone well but commented that it would be good to get back to in person meetings.
- Gordon agreed that the AGM had gone well and that everything had worked as it should. He noted that the downside of online meetings is that it is difficult to generate discussion and he agreed with Fran that it will be better when the meetings are in person.
- Josh pointed out that, although the FDT has a large membership, there were only a small number of members at the meeting. He felt it was important to think of ways of getting more people involved. **ACTION: Agenda item for next meeting – discussion of plans for future meetings (online v in person) and ways to involve the community.**
- Iain M also felt that the AGM had gone well – better than anticipated and that the Board had learnt a lot about procedures beforehand. He agreed that it could have been better attended but thought that interest in the FDT would pick up when more money starts coming in.
- Iain F agreed with Gordon that online meetings are more subdued but also felt that it had gone well.
- Anne said that the AGM had gone well and the FDT had done what they needed to do. She is also looking forward to face to face meetings.
- Josh asked if anybody had any concerns with anything regarding the AGM. There were none.

IV. Form filling – NDA's etc.

- Josh asked if everyone was able to access the forms and asked that they be completed as soon as possible.

V. Policies review and signed off

- This needed Kayt's input. **ACTION: Add this to next month's agenda.**

VI. Directors' training options

- Josh asked the Directors to think about what training they might want.
- Gordon mentioned that previous training had always been done by Development Trust Association (DTAS) but he knew that they were short staffed at the moment so the Directors may need to look elsewhere.
- **ACTION: Add to next month's agenda.**

VII. Shelloch Windfarm

- Planning permission has been granted. Gordon felt that the FDT needs to think about their involvement. More information is needed about the community benefits. Josh thought that Fintry Community Council (FCC) and Chris might know more about this. Chris has given a lot of information to FCC previously.
- Iain M said that he had attended a planning meeting and was surprised that Stirling Council's (SC) attitude seemed to have turned round completely. They were initially not in favour of the wind farm but now they are. Iain M explained that the route for the turbines and other construction traffic would be from Arnprior. New access will be made opposite Arnprior Nursery onto the road up to the B822, the road will be altered in places where the bends are too sharp and the corner at the top will be completely cut off and go through woodland to reach the B822. Access will then be through Easter Gribloch Farm to the wind farm. No traffic will go

through Kippen and the turbines should not be visible from Fintry. Concerns were raised by residents of Thornhill but Iain M was not aware of any objections from Fintry residents.

- Josh questioned what involvement the FDT should have. Gordon said that local community groups can have up to 10% Community Ownership of Shelloch wind farm. Iain M thought that FCC would be doing that but Gordon said that community councils are not allowed to own assets like this so FCC would not be able to be involved in the ownership scheme. David noted that this was one of the reasons FDT was set up originally to benefit from ownership of a turbine at Earlsburn.
- David said that there had been concern about the loss of ancient woodland and that this could be avoided by changing the access route. He knew that this would be more expensive for the developers and did not know if they had done that or not.
- Josh suggested that the topic be discussed again at the next meeting when Chris might be able to provide more information. **ACTION: Add to next month's agenda and ensure that Chris is aware.**

VIII. Norman's letter

- A letter had been received from Norman McKnight requesting more information about the FDT's income stream from the windfarm and how that money was being spent. David has arranged for himself and Iain M to meet with Norman for a coffee to discuss this with him. Josh thanked David and Iain M for agreeing to do this. David said he would draft a letter after the discussion to confirm in writing what had been said.

IX. IT recycling

- Kayt, David and Iain F had moved the items from the Sports Centre into the FDT's hut and an uplift is being organised. David noted how helpful Dougie Spence had been throughout the whole process.

X. History night

- **ACTION: Agenda item carried forward to the next meeting.**

XI. Jubilee Weekend

- Anne and Kayt had attended a meeting to further discuss the programme of events. So far the programme is as follows:
 - Sunday 29th May – Fintry Photo
 - Thursday 2nd June – quiz night at Knockraich (should there be an FDT team?)
 - Friday 3rd June – FCC has booked the primary school and is planning a pet show and possibly a circus skills workshop. Other child orientated activities may include recycled crown, eco treasure hunt, plant and seedling swap, bug safari and FDT would be involved in some of those activities. This will be followed by a family ceilidh at the Menzies Hall.
 - Saturday 4th June – treasure hunt, fancy dress parade, pipe band, big picnic with live music and a barbecue at the Bowling Hub.
 - Sunday 5th June – activities at the Menzies Hall which may include a craft fair, art exhibition, hot drinks and cakes.
- FCC has applied for funding for much of this and has included funding for a mini-bus to enable residents to visit Earlsburn Windfarm. Gordon said he had spoken to Falck and they had been positive so far but no definite arrangements had been made.
- There had also been some discussion of a village heritage trail but this was a permanent display of information boards rather than a jubilee weekend activity.
- Fran said that she had sent some ideas to Kayt for example geocaching, orienteering, bug hotels, planting wildflowers, children's craft workshop and was happy to run one of these but hadn't realised how much was already planned.
- **ACTION: collate a list of possible activities that the FDT could offer and confirm at the next meeting which activities would be going ahead and which Directors would be available to run them.**

XII. Future planning

- This will be carried forward to the next meeting and ties in with discussion around Cara Gillespie's proposal mentioned previously.

XIII. Financial report

- Iain F had circulated a spreadsheet prior to the meeting. Fintry Community Energy (FCE) is owed money from Nottingham and this is needed to pay invoices. Iain F hoped that the income would be received in time to pay the invoices but if there was a cash flow issue, he may have to ask for a loan from FDT. All other accounts are fine.
- Iain M referred to the fact that energy prices are increasing considerably and noted that the increased costs to the FDT would need to be offset by an increase in prices to the householders. Iain F said that woodchip prices seemed to be stable for now but agreed that this would probably go up soon. He said that the charges to the householders could be evaluated once the figures are known and that an annual review takes place every spring. Gordon agreed that the annual review would be a good time to look at the figures. Josh asked for a more specific time frame and Gordon suggested a discussion could be had in April. **ACTION: add review of fuel costs at Balgair to April's agenda.**

RESERVED BUSINESS

XIV. Consultant's report

- Gordon had circulated a report prior to the meeting.
- **RESERVED BUSINESS**
- He also mentioned the installation of the weather station and the air quality sensor.
- Josh thanked Gordon for his report.

XV. Manager's report

- Kayt had circulated a report prior to the meeting. The only point needing to be discussed was the FDT's insurance. Josh said that he had tried to contact the insurance company but had not received a response. He was conscious that the policy needs to be renewed by 25/02/22. David suggested that the FDT agree to go ahead with the renewal but ensure that the insurance company are told that the FDT has tried to flag up the issue of increased income. Anne was concerned that even doing that would not necessarily mean that the insurance company would honour it. She noted that they have been difficult to deal with in the past. Josh felt that the FDT should try not to use these insurance brokers again. Gordon agreed with David that when the policy/premium is accepted a reminder should be included that information about increased income has been provided. Iain F said that an insurance document had been received with the cost of the insurance embedded in it. The amount was less than had been originally quoted but he had not received an actual invoice yet. **ACTION: Josh to confirm the cost of the insurance, remind the insurance company that they have been notified of the increased income and to look around for other insurance companies.**
- Anne raised the issue of Kayt's frustration at not getting responses from the Board. She is often waiting for replies so that she can get on with her work. Anne reminded the Directors that Kayt sends them 'homework' on a Thursday evening to be looked at before she is back into work on a Tuesday morning. Anne gave a plea to the Directors to do this. Fran asked if people were acknowledging Kayt's emails or just saying thanks then could people just reply to Kayt and not to everybody. This would reduce the number of emails that people receive. Josh agreed that there were ways to streamline communications and thought this could be something that Cara Gillespie could look at. David said that Kayt appreciated the support from the Board but confirmed that she does get frustrated when she doesn't receive responses.

XVI. A.O.B.

- None.

Next meeting: 30th March 2022, 7.30 p.m.