



Minutes of the Board meeting held on
24th June 2020

Present/apologies for absence:

- **Present:** Luke Emerton (Chair), Iain Frazer (Treasurer), Anne Hislop, David Howell, Iain MacKay, Chris Robinson, Kayt Howell (Manager), Gordon Cowtan (Consultant),
- **Apologies:** Hugh Edmond

I. Approve last minutes

- Approved.

II. Check actions completed

- There were no actions from the previous meeting.

III. Financial Report

- Iain F circulated a financial report prior to the meeting.
- Overall, Iain F felt that the accounts are looking ok and that the money coming in from RHI and VAT rebate should be enough to cover everything. An invoice for around £1K had been received from Highland Wood Energy (HWE) for maintenance work done during May which Gordon had not been aware of. However, the work had been itemised and job sheets had been provided. Gordon noted that Ken Brady from Energy Savings Trust (EST) had mentioned the possibility of extending the loan holiday. Iain M asked if the FDT would still be accruing interest on the loan during the loan holiday. **ACTION: Gordon to check with Ken if interest is still being accrued during the loan holiday.**

RESERVED BUSINESS

IV. FALCK projected figures.

- Gordon had done some modelling based on the figures provided by FALCK (and Chris) to predict the income at the end of the summer period. 50% of the figures used are currently estimates but the prediction is a £15K deficit. This is not out of the ordinary at this time of year (it was around £12K last year) and the shortfall usually evens out over the course of the year. Part of the problem has been caused by a drop in the wholesale price of electricity which is approximately half of what it was 18-24 months ago. There is also a mismatch with the timing of the subsidies received from OFGEM which usually evens out as well.

V. Force 9 Energy - Shelloch wind farm

- A proposal has been submitted by Force 9 Energy to erect 5 turbines on the Fintry Hills. Access will be from Kippen and the power will probably be taken out to the substation in Kippen. There will be community benefits and Fintry Community Council (FCC) has been notified as part of the consultation process. Some Fintry residents have received letters through their door and information has been posted

on Facebook. The Board agreed that they should make contact with FCC to offer their support particularly as they have dealt with Force 9 Energy in the past. David wondered what the community benefits would be and Gordon said that the company were offering £5K per kilowatt hour (kWh) which would be shared by 5 community councils (Fintry, Arnprior, Kippen, Carron Valley and Gargunnoch). There would also be the opportunity for the community councils to invest in the development. This would probably involve taking a loan from the Scottish Investment Bank, investing in the development and receiving income based on the level of investment. Anne asked where the turbines would be in relation to the existing Earlsburn wind farm. Gordon said they would be in roughly the same area but nearer to Fintry. Iain M said they looked to be quite near to Stronend. Chris noted that it looked similar to a proposal which had been put forward in 2015 and Gordon confirmed that it is the same location although there are now fewer but larger turbines. Kayt noted that it was interesting that Force 9 Energy had been in contact with the FDT regarding the original proposal but not for the current one particularly as any community benefits would have to be administered through a trust fund. Iain M wondered how the benefits would be split between the 5 community councils particularly as the bulk of the wind farm would be in the FCC area. Gordon pointed out that there has been a history of disagreement between the community councils regarding the benefits from the Earlsburn extension. An agreement was never reached so FALCK distribute the income equally between them. There would almost certainly be objections from the other community councils if Fintry asked for a larger share. Chris asked how Fintry had managed to benefit so much from the original wind farm at Earlsburn. David and Gordon replied that it was really all down to timing and being in the right place at the right time. There were no other wind farms in the area at that time and no one knew the protocol so Fintry were just lucky. Things had already changed by the time of the Earlsburn extension and the developers know that the communities are much more aware of how they can benefit. **ACTION: Kayt to draft an email to FCC to set up a meeting to discuss the proposal and circulate to the Board.**

VI. Company Secretary decision

- Luke reminded the Board that the role of the Company Secretary had been discussed at the last meeting and it had been agreed that the Company Secretary should have overall responsibility for ensuring that certain tasks are completed but would not be responsible for completing those tasks themselves. Chris confirmed that he was happy to put himself forward for the role and all Board members present voted in agreement.

VII. Consultant's report

- Gordon had circulated his report prior to the meeting.

VIII. Manager's report

- Kayt had circulated her report prior to the meeting.
- A lot of work has been done on the draft policies and some have already been sent to Anne and Chris for proof reading. Kayt hoped that these could then be circulated to the Board and then approved so that a good number of them were finalised before the next Annual General Meeting (AGM). Anne felt that once the policies had been proof read, circulated they would not need to be discussed at Board meetings but could simply be approved so as not to take up too much of the Boards' meeting time. The most relevant policies could then be finalised for the AGM. David asked if there was a list of order of priority. Kayt confirmed that she had been prioritising the more important policies first but was happy to provide a list of the policies for the Board to look at. **ACTION: Kayt to compile and circulate a list of policies and indicate the ones she feels are most important.**
- Now that a good number of policies have been drafted, Kayt requested time to look back at the Futures project to see where the FDT is up to with that and where they

- should be headed next. Kayt felt it would be useful to have this information available for the next AGM. The Board agreed.
- Kayt noted that she had received some positive feedback regarding the recent FDT newsletter that had been circulated and Luke said that the school have been discussing how to use the solar funds being held by FDT.

IX. A.O.B.

- Gordon informed the Board that he and Kayt had been working on draft letters to the residents of Balgair and the residents of Fintry regarding the heating system. Now that the FDT is receiving support from the Scottish Government, Gordon proposed waiting until more information has been received from them regarding next steps. The Board agreed.
- In relation to the work on the Futures project, Gordon explained to the Board that he had been in contact with an organisation that could facilitate a carbon foot printing exercise for Fintry. They have given a quote for £2.5K to do this. Gordon felt that now was not the best time to undertake this project but would like to let the organisation know that it was something the FDT would like to look at in the future. **ACTION: Gordon to circulate the quote and any other information to the Board for consideration.**
- Kayt reminded the Board that she will be taking annual leave next week.

X. BOARD ONLY – Contractors extended contract

- Luke proposed to extend Gordon's contract for another 3 months. The Board agreed.

Date of next meeting

- Wednesday July 29th 2020 7 p.m.