



Minutes of the Board meeting held on
24th August 2022

Present/apologies for absence:

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

Before the meeting began, JT explained the purpose of the meeting which was to pull together the ideas from the community engagement and draw up a shortlist. These proposals will then be presented at a community event to ensure that they address the issues and to provide an opportunity to amend/adjust them as necessary. This will be a concrete list of short term projects to help people get through the winter by utilising the money from the unexpected windfall. There was some concern that certain issues for example, Balgair, appointing a Financial Director had not been included on the agenda but there is not enough time in the meetings to fit everything in.

I. Approval of minutes and actions arising (JT)

- The minutes of the last meeting were approved.
- ACTION: GC had been looking into the possibility of the FDT providing monetary assistance to residents who are in fuel poverty – see Agenda item 2 ii
- ACTION: KH to finalise the invitation to the History Night – **ongoing.**
- ACTION: KH and DH to put together a job description for a Financial Director – **ongoing.**
- ACTION - KH to publish the newsletter and put placeholder responses if required for community enquiries to be discussed at next board meeting – **ongoing.**
- ACTION - KH to get quotes, timescales and ongoing maintenance costs for an FDT website – see Agenda item 2 x.
- ACTION: AH and JT to meet with MB re: Shelloch Wind Farm – **ongoing.**
- ACTION: JT to get dates for Director training to fit future board meetings – **ongoing.**
- ACTION: KH to speak to DTAS to arrange a session with them (SORT-IT) – **ongoing.**
- ACTION: KH and Directors to work up proposals and have discussions with potential suppliers or partners to report back to board as follows: Purchasing Fuel – Iain M – Biomass and wood; Grants – Kayt and Anne (to include grants for heating systems, grants for energy efficiency improvements – lighting, appliances etc. and grants for energy saving; Workshops – Fran; Investments – Iain F; Food bank – Fran and Josh; Renewables workshops – Josh; Community Fridge – Fran and Josh; Energy Efficiency Surveys – Chris; Energy Advisor – Josh speak to HES, Chris; Car Sharing – Kayt; Transportation – DRT Scheme. – Kayt; Website – David; Handyman – Iain M; Green Transport – David – all covered in this meeting.
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II. Financial report (IF)

- IF had circulated his report prior to the meeting. The Board agreed that he could transfer money as required to pay invoices.
- GC mentioned two Harley Haddow (HH) invoices which need paying and proposed to pay only half of one of them until the next version of the report had been received. The Board agreed.
ACTION: GC to chase up the HH report.

III. Reporting back – quick overview of project proposals

IV. RESERVED BUSINESS

Grants – KH and AH (Including action from previous meeting - FREE or FCE options for distributing cash grants. GC) –Workshops (FH) – FH has spoken to Renewable Heating. They would be willing to come to a consultation/community event to give advice on getting the best out of heat pumps but would be looking to get bookings to go into people's homes off the back of it. HES would also be to provide free advice for various renewable systems.

- i. **Investments (IF)** –
- ii. **Food Bank/Boxes (FH and JT)** – This is being considered as an alternative to giving money to residents in fuel poverty. There is a possibility to work with The Hub G63 (a social enterprise focused on localising food) and with the Fintry Community Council (FCC) Resilience Team. **ACTION: Speak to Michele Bennett (MB) to discuss how FDT can help and try to involve Hub G63.**
- iii. **Renewable Workshops (JT)** – JT has spoken to HES. They can provide training at events free of charge. This will be tied in with Scottish Climate Action Week and the community consultation evening.
- iv. **Energy Efficiency Surveys (CR)** – CR has spoken to various companies who offer to do energy efficiency surveys but found it difficult to find out specific details about what they offer. HES offer an initial phone consultation to find out general information such as how the household utilise their heating, how many people live in the house, what the building is made of etc.; they would then look to see if the household is eligible for the Warmer Homes Scotland scheme and if so, would arrange a home visit to carry out a more detailed survey. This would be followed by a report. They will also refer any eligible householders to Warmworks who can provide up to £5k for improvements such as insulation and draught proofing. There is also an opportunity for the FDT to become accredited surveyors within the HES loan scheme. KH noted that the FDT can already refer households to HES if they think they can benefit from HES's loan and grant schemes – this information can be added to the FDT's grant application forms. HES can also advise about the installation of renewable heating systems where appropriate.
- v. **Energy Advisor – JT and CR – don't think this was covered**
- vi. **Transport (combines, DRT, car sharing, bus, car clubs etc.) (KH & DH)** – Lots of information had been circulated before the meeting. Most of these suggestions have been tried before. A new scheme, peer-to-peer car sharing service (Hiyacar) may be an option. This involves paying to use a car that is owned by somebody else. The scheme would be run by Hiyacar. The car owners would receive money whenever their car was used. DH has also been looking at improving pathways in the area and has a meeting with Richard Armstrong from Paths for All later this week.
- vii. **Website (KH & DH)** – Information about the costs involved in establishing a website including support and maintenance had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Board agreed that KH should go ahead to the next step of the process.
- viii. **Handyman (IM)** – ongoing
- ix. **Energy Solutions/Retrofitting** – carried forward

V. Agreement of shortlist of feasible ideas to take to community for approval

- It was agreed that the points listed above would form the shortlist of proposals to present to the FDT membership at the community event.

VI. Next steps and agree community meeting (Or other engagement)

- A date for the History Night/presentation of proposals was agreed for Tuesday 27th September to tie in with The Scottish Climate Action Week which is the week beginning September 26th. The aim will be to present the shortlist of ideas and gather responses and feedback. The ideas will also be included in a newsletter for members who cannot attend the event. It was agreed that it should be made clear that these proposals are a way to use the unexpected windfall to help residents in the short term and are not proposals for the larger sums of money which will be available after the mortgage is repaid.

VII. Date for additional meeting to discuss standard agenda items (Teams) - These can be covered in meeting if time allows.

- i. Community Consultation Invite - KH
- ii. Financial Director - KH and DH
- iii. Circular Economy - info in KH's summary report
- iv. Newsletter responses – KH
- v. Website Designers – KH
- vi. Shelloch & Earlsburn meetings with Michelle (FCC)

- vii. Director Training
- viii. DTAS Sort-It (Strategy)
- ix. Balgair
- A date to discuss these points was agreed for Tuesday 6th September at 7.30 p.m.

VIII. A.O.B.

- Energy Action Packs – these would include items such as LED's, radiator reflectors, draught excluders etc. **ACTION: KH to find out a rough cost for these.**
- There was discussion of the structure of the FDT moving forward in particular the demands on KH's time. Another member of staff could be employed to take on basic admin tasks/IT/grant administration. It may also be possible to employ an energy adviser. Working groups could also be established which would include at least one Director and FDT members. **ACTION: KH to think about whether she would want to work full-time.**

Next meetings: 6th September 2022, 7.30 p.m.
27th September 2022 (History Night)