

Notes FDT meeting 26.05.21

Present/apologies for absence:

Present:

Luke Emerton (Chair), Iain Frazer (Treasurer), Josh Thornhill, Anne Hislop (Vice chair), David Howell, Iain MacKay, Chris Robinson (Co.Sec.), Kayt Howell (Manager), Gordon Cowtan (Consultant)

Apologies: None

1. Approve minutes of previous meeting, 21/4/21.

Minutes of the last meeting were approved. Kayt reported that, as agreed, Hugh had been asked if he would like to remain on the FCE Board; he declined.

2. Finance report

Iain Fraser, Treasurer, reported on the current financial situation based on the figures he had distributed to the board earlier.

Income from Earlsburn has been received, although it is suspected that they have overpaid and that approximately £10,000 will need to be returned. Iain reminded the Board that the 2nd instalment of the money owed to Balgair for electricity is due and that he has received an invoice for the last quarter. It will be necessary to transfer cash to the FCE account to cover the amounts due.

3. Futures.

Luke had prepared a presentation which included a reminder of the role of Trustees and of the purposes of FDT etc. He is keen that Directors should set out Mission and Vision statements to inform and guide the work of the Trust and asked Board members to consider where we see FDT in 5/10 years? Discussions followed about zero waste, carbon neutrality etc which were the main goals when FDT was first set up.

The Board felt that FDT should continue to try to lower the carbon footprint, and should encourage and ensure knowledge of sustainability including how members of the community can heat their homes effectively and affordably. Discussion followed around food growing, encouraging biodiversity and it was agreed that practical/hands on projects are appealing and help with community engagement. Short term goals would help make FDT visible again in the community and help with Board morale which has suffered because of Balgair.

It was agreed that whatever we do, it needs to be a "collegiate" decision with full agreement at Board level and that FDT must work to reconnect with the community. Kayt suggested trying to restart the Community Conversation, perhaps by Zoom, to offer another way for interested parties in the village to work together.

It was agreed that FDT and the Community Council [CC] might need to define roles so that the work of each complements the other to ensure clarity of purpose. Although the pandemic has restricted what we can do we may have an opportunity later this year to have an outdoor event, if restrictions continue to ease.

The Board needs to consider how best to organise, and perhaps set up small groups to lead on Mission and Vision, projects etc.

It was also agreed that Balgair issues need to be resolved to allow FDT to move on.

Next steps – Community Conversations

Conversation with the school about green projects FDT can support
Event towards the end of summer [Covid allowing]

Kayt asked the Board to consider a better definition of the activities of FDT for the insurance policy.

Action – Kayt will work on a definition and send to all Board members to review and respond asap. Kayt will also contact another “green” insurer to seek another quote for cover.

Kayt and Gordon reported that they had met with a Consultant from Foundation Scotland who has submitted a proposal of how she would work with us to help FDT refine/define how we’ll work in future to meet our Mission/Vision etc to ensure the Trust functions in the best possible way when income is much higher.

Action – Kayt to share the proposal with Directors to read, consider and prepare to discuss at the next meeting.

4. EV

Prior to the meeting, Kayt had sent information on setting up charges. It was agreed that the charge will be set at 23p per kWh, plus £1 connection fee with no additional charge for overstay at present. This will be reviewed in future.

Action – Kayt to contact Willie Sangster to ask him to make up a sign showing the charges.

5. Balgair

The minutes relating to Balgair are held as reserved business due to personal & sensitive financial data being present.

5. Consultant’s Report

Gordon reported that he has been contacted by Stirling Council regarding funding which may be available for particular projects. He has already contact Michele Bennet at CC re flooding; a project with the school about air quality was suggested and/or light pollution.

Action – Directors to send any ideas to Gordon.

11. Managers' report.

Kayt added to her written report by reporting that she has been contacted by the Flower show committee, FDT's category at this year's show will be "Save Me From Landfill".

12. AOB

None, the meeting was brought to a conclusion.

Next meeting 30 June, 7pm.