



Minutes of AGM 2012. 27/10/12 - Menzies Hall, Fintry . 2pm

## APOLOGIES

No Apologies - all directors and staff in attendance.

## WELCOME

David Howell (Chair) welcomed the members to the AGM and thanked them for attending. David outlined the agenda to follow and handed the meeting over to Gordon Cowtan (Treasurer).

## TREASURERS REPORT

Gordon explained the circumstances surrounding the late presentation of the annual accounts and covered in summary the main areas of the financial report for both FDT and its trading company FREE.

The accounts are available from the Fintry Development Trusts web site or can be viewed at the FDT notice board at the sports centre. The accounts are yet to be approved by the board.

One of the important figures discussed was the relatively poor net income from the Turbine. Gordon discussed the poor wind conditions which have affected production of electricity and the low wholesale electricity costs. As part of the agreement negotiated with Falck we have the option to pay off a third of the capital cost of the turbine - however FDT are looking at proposals to pay off the full amount. The majority of the costs go towards paying off the interest on the turbine and this would bring greater funds into the village via the Trust. Initial discussions have been reluctantly entertained and we will need to work further on the presentation and content of our proposal. In the meantime FDT are having discussions with the Scottish Government about funding the costs and the discussions have been moderately positive to date.

When we have more concrete information on our options FDT will call an extraordinary general meeting to advise the membership.

## REPORT FROM PROJECT MANAGER (Kelly McIntyre)

Kelly explained the reason for being unable to pursue one of last years proposals for a sustainable woodland area. Unfortunately the Forestry Commission gave away our rights to purchase the land we were after and we were unable to secure an alternative.

Kelly outlined the funding that we now have in place from CCF and how it will allow us to chase our targets and broaden our focus on the work we are doing.

FEET ( Fintry Energy Efficient Transport) has really taken off and we have had an additional 14 members since last year and a number who have given up a car at home now that they are members of FEET. Kelly discussed the Electric vehicle we currently have on loan to use and evaluate as part of the fleet and how we are seeking a replacement to trial when this one is returned.

The car share club has begun albeit in a low tech way at the moment. We hope to have the service for sharing journeys on our website once the revamp of the site is complete. Kelly reminded the membership that FEET is their car club and that FDT welcome suggestions and ideas for plans or improvement.

The Green Pages have been printed and distributed to those who have filled in an Energy Audit. Kelly advised the members, that as well as being a directory for local goods and services, the Green Pages also provides a 'Go To ' guide for transport solutions.

On other newer projects - The Community Garden has moved on and is now planned out-line costed and has attracted some funding. Hoping to progress with this over the coming months.

We received a grant from Cycle Scotland which will provide Fintry with electric and traditional bikes and provision for kit and storage. We are interested in enthusiastic volunteers who may help with proficiency classes for both adults and children. Very excited with this addition to our sustainable transport options and hope to launch "Cycle Fintry" in the new year.

Kelly reported on the local woodland which has been negotiated for public access and woodland workshops. This will be an excellent resource to the community and FDT.

We have been awarded a considerable number of trees to restock the woodland with native species following storm damage. We are keen to enlist volunteers for our tree planting day on November 24th from 11 am (Meeting at the sports club) to help plant trees. Good exercise and company and warming refreshments for our planters! Everyone welcome.

Kelly discussed the FRESH event in March and summarised the events which had led to a positive and successful year and thanked the members for their support and contributions.

#### REPORT FROM SENIOR ENERGY ADVISOR (Matthew Black)

Matthew reported on the Energy audit taking place in the village and called for those who had yet to complete and Audit to get in touch and he or Chrissy would be pleased to assist. The results of the audit would provide the data to enable energy efficiency plans to be prepared for each household.

Matthew reported on the advisory work carried out with the Fintry Inn and the Castle to look into renewable heating systems. He also mentioned the work to gain accreditation with Ofgem in order to receive RHI for the Sports Club's Biomass boiler installation. The Club have only had to pay back a percentage of the grant they received in order to receive the RHI payments.

Matthew explained about the proposals for bulk buying renewable heating kit such as Air Source Heat Pumps and encouraged those interested to sign the forms available at the FDT Sports Centre notice board or to get in touch with him.

Matthew talked about the draught proofing workshops which have been held recently in the village and again encouraged those who may be interested to get in touch.

Reporting on future proposals Matthew discussed the four hard to treat homes which have received external cladding and the possibility of a further three receiving the same before Christmas. He also mentioned the proposals for a local log store which would serve the needs of the residents. Depending on the results of the research we may be able to supply cheap or even free logs to those in the village who have wood burning stoves and in the longer term may provide chips or pellets to those with Biomass.

Matthew thanked the members for their support and encouraged them to get in contact should they require advice or come to the drop in sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Sports Club.

#### QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR.

The board were asked about the location of the proposed community woodland area - which was Mr Macadam's land at the back of Quarry road.

The board were asked about the distribution of the trees and it was explained that the majority would be in the woodland, some as a border to the FOOTPADS route and some to the school.

The board received a question regarding the variety of trees and the community growing space and risk of flooding. - The board responded with details of the layout and construction of the raised beds being proposed to avoid the issues of flooding and confirmed the planned layout would not exacerbate the problem by causing a dam effect but would be in a grid format with small units allowing the water to flow around.

#### ELECTION OF DIRECTORS.

The chair explained the process of the longest standing members of the board being required to stand down for re-election at the AGM. David Howell and Pete Skabara were doing this however Pete was to be co opted onto the board to hold his position until he was free from extensive work commitments and could once again commit time to FDT again.

David Howell, Hugh Edmonds and David Findlay were standing for the remaining two places on the board. David Findlay very graciously withdrew his nomination and offered to assist FDT in anyway he could in the future.

An vote was not then required and David Howell and Hugh Edmonds were then elected to the board by agreement of the membership.

#### AOB.

Mr Findlay asked about FDT's position regarding the current housing proposals. David Howell explained that as individuals in the community the board members each had their own personal thoughts on the proposals but as a collective group they did not intend to

take a stand in any camp. FDT's interest lay in the sustainability and environmental issues which would be generated by the buildings in the proposals and would wish to contribute at that stage should it go ahead.

Regarding the sewage works capacity issues FDT had been in touch with Scottish Water and SEPA to ask about energy use and efficiency but they were not forthcoming .

Mrs Sandra Kinnear thanked FDT for all their assistance in her own project to install and ASHP and gave support the boards continued work.

Refreshments were served for all in the Lesser Hall.