



Minutes of FDT AGM - Saturday 30th October 2010 - 2 pm , Menzies Hall.

**Board members present** ; Jamie Pearson, David Smith, Martin Turner, David Howell, Gordon Cowtan, Stephen Strachan (Energy Advisor) Kelly McIntyre (Project Manager) Kayt Howell (Admin).

**Apologies:** Pete Skabara, Bill Acton.

**Other attendees/members** - 20 Fintry residents.

MT (Chair) opened the meeting with a welcome to all who had come along and gave a brief review of the last year for FDT. He explained it had been a turbulent and unpredictable year with a new government in office and the issues that brought with changes to grants, legislation and funding streams. Unfortunately the turbulence did not extend to the weather and as a result the lack of wind over the last year had meant a significant reduction in the revenue raised from the turbine. At some points there had been significant concerns that FDT would increase it's level of debt which would of course be an issue. Thank fully that point was never reached and we remained cash positive.

MT handed over to GC (treasurer) to give his financial report.

GC explained that within the statements provided to everyone, there was an element of approximation for ease of understanding.

For the first time the Board was presenting a proposed budget breakdown for the coming year to assist in managing the next year's spend.

The statement is broken into two parts - wind turbine income and then grant funding.

Full details will be made available shortly on our website. <http://www.fintrydt.org.uk> .

Copies are also available at the FDT notice board at the Sports Club.

GC took the group through each section of the financial statement.

Mr Mackay asked if FDT needed to supply audited accounts to the membership.

GC advised that the accounts required approval by the board and are made available to the membership via our web site and the information board at the sports club.

Mr Borland asked how FDT track the fluctuating turbine income against expenditure.

GC explained that as well as being simply aware of the weather conditions in Fintry and as such the likelihood of income being generated by the wind farm, we also receive monthly reports from Falck regarding the number of mega watts produced. In addition we receive payment every six months and on this we base our workings. A fund is generated to cover our predicted spend which minimises our risks from income fluctuations.

Mr Borland asked about the worst case scenario.

MT added that it would be when the income does not meet our costs and our debt is increased. That risk has always been there. However as mentioned earlier, our site, unlike some others, made a profit.

Mr Milne asked how we differentiate between malfunction and non function costs.

MT responded that we are running, most of the time, in the 90%'s of production. There is also a manufacturers warranty for the first five years and insurances beyond. Our 18K was after maintenance, capital cost repayment and interest. Most of the money goes back to Falck at this stage.

Mr Duckworth expressed concern that our grant funding was almost twice that of our turbine income and that grants are not guaranteed at this political time.

GC responded by explaining that next years grants are already in place but agreed what is uncertain is moving beyond the next 12 months. FDT, like everyone else, does not yet know what's ahead. GC referred to the recent discussion with Bruce Crawford MSP over the CCF (Climate Change Fund) where Mr Crawford indicated that the CCF was one which the government would hope to continue, but yes, there were uncertainties .

MT added that that was partly the role of KM (Enterprise Project Manager) to source viable projects and funding which will benefit the community. FDT's success in securing grant funding was largely now due to our track record of being a community who can deliver positive results.

Mr Duckworth while agreeing with FDT's success in securing grant funding, had concerns over relying on them as a guaranteed source of income.

DH reminded the group that there was the large income to follow in a number of years.

MT added that a few 'windy' years could allow us to pay off the loan earlier.

KM explained that grant funding was mostly used to 'front load' or 'kick start' projects rather than continually support them and ultimately reduce the actual running costs of each.

Mr Mackay asked about the situation after the 10 year pay off.

MT responded that it was impossible to predict where we would be regarding power, it's cost and it's generation. It could be the case as in some wind farms, that the turbines will be replaced by more efficient models or new technology, but whatever the outcome a bond existed with Stirling Council to remove the turbines and restore the land.

Mr Drapper asked whether after the life of the turbine, do members still retain a share in it's replacement.

GC explained that we don't have a guaranteed stake in it's replacement but felt that after 25 years Falck would most likely negotiate to include Fintry in any future plans.

MT then introduced Stephen Strachan (Energy Advisor) whose grant funded position was primarily to move Fintry away from dependency on carbon heating systems.

SS described the changes to the original FRESCo (Fintry Renewable Energy Supply Company) project. He outlined his role in taking Fintry towards substantial carbon reduction by supporting all households through the sometimes daunting issues of converting over to renewable energy sources. This includes, but is not limited to, advising on suitable

kit, negotiating with suppliers and installers, assistance with grant and loan applications as necessary, and over-seeing installations to completion.

SS stressed his availability for any energy issues and how he can be contacted at the Sports club or by his details as listed on the web site and notice board.

SS explained his future plans which include looking at the difficult to heat properties, which by Scottish Government definition was actually all the properties in Fintry as we are not on mains gas but is considered by FDT as the properties which were not able to benefit from the initial cavity and wall insulation project. This will include draught proofing, heating alternatives, external and internal cladding.

Heating system upgrades were a possible way forward for some and they should then benefit from RHI which is the governments 'Renewable Heat Incentive' scheme. The details are still to be announced but it is a system of paying the householder for having a renewable heating system. The idea being it recompenses for the cost of installing.

SS outlined ideas for potential 'District Heating Systems' which would offer low carbon, cheaper to run systems for groups of housing and owned and run by the community.

At this stage the maths still needs to be looked at and similarly the idea of utilising a community woodland for harvesting fuel for a district heating plant.

The Sports Club have proposals for using a wood chip bio mass system which should approximately reduce their running costs by two thirds.

SS again stated that he was around and available to visit anyone in Fintry who would like advice or assistance on their energy use.

MT introduced Kelly McIntyre (Enterprise Project Manager) who's position is also currently grant funded.

KM explained her role with FDT to pick up the ideas and projects which have been generated already and to explore anything else suggested by the community which meets with the carbon reducing and community benefit goals set out by FDT.

KM is currently working on FEET (Fintry Energy Efficient Transport) which is essentially looking at setting up a rural car club with two or three vehicles for use by all, based at the Sports Centre. This is aimed at encouraging car share, reduction of second car use and assisting with a solution to the transportation poverty of Fintry

KM is also involved with the Forestry Commission to obtain a community woodland site. Ideally this would be utilised as a community asset for recreation, harvesting for fuel, and for educational purposes - potentially training locals to manage, maintain and harvest the area.

Allotments, community growing space and orchards are other areas being investigated.

The main issue is finding and establishing a site. The council owns virtually nothing around Fintry and so the challenge is to secure some space from a private owner or farmer.

Another idea may be to establish a local market similar to the one in Killearn to sell local produce and crafts

KM encouraged anyone who has an idea for a project that needs further investigation to contact her - again details are on the notice board at the Sports Centre and on FDT's web site.

A resident asked what exactly were we looking for and wasn't it a bit ambitious to be thinking about an orchard.

KM explained that these were still being looked at and only further investigation and consultation will decide whether they are viable projects

KM then discussed the lack of food waste collection in Fintry. This is due to the council deciding that runs of this nature to Fintry are not cost effective. KM is looking at the potential for a small AD (Anaerobic Digester) system within the village which would allow the council to collect the waste but then deposit it in Fintry for use in the AD.

The AD would then produce energy, compost and fertiliser which could service community poly tunnels and local food production.

Mr Borland suggested involving the farming community.

MT agreed and stated this had already been investigated.

KM added that this may in turn create local job opportunities and that for approximately £4K a small AD unit would process our food waste.

Mr Mackay asked if the AD would take green waste as well as food waste.

KM confirmed that it would.

Large scale would involve the transporting and trucking of waste so it makes sense to start small.

Mrs Duckworth asked if Fintry could provide enough waste for this scheme and would there be any issues with smell from the site.

KM and SS explained that the actual unit needs to be completely sealed to work so there would be no adverse environmental impact. Additional waste from commercial premises could be added and potentially waste from other local villages.

Mr Duckworth stated that farmers have looked at AD in the past and many had abandoned the idea.

MT added that technology had moved on considerably.

Mr Duckworth asked for assessments of all these ideas to be made available on the web site and at public meetings.

MT responded that KM has only been in post or two months and when she has tested the viability of these projects then FDT will publish the findings. MT added if there is criticism then it is due to FDT being over careful with funds but new ideas must be looked into and pursued or nothing gets achieved. It was this approach which resulted in securing a turbine for the community.

GC stated that two members of the Board had stepped down- John Duckworth earlier this year and David Smith at the end of this term.

We received only two nominations for the positions - Gordon Murray and Derek Hulme.(with the approval of his employers pending)

There were no objections, Mr Milne formally nominated both gentlemen, and both new nominations were duly elected onto the board.

Further questions were received:

Mr Mackay asked why FDT was not looking at a Hydro scheme given Fintry's history and location.

SS explained he had looked at this in some detail and uncovered a number of difficulties the most obvious being the lack of 'head of water'.

MT added that he and BA had looked into it many years ago and their investigations found it non viable.

SS explained that the Scottish Government were looking at the old hydro system at the Carron Dam for reinstating. They will either claim it for their own use or prove it is not worth pursuing.

Mrs Duckworth asked about the Loup.

MT said that there would be a potential upset with Scottish Heritage.

Mr Milne asked about the Lade.

MT explained that there may be a potential route following a reinstatement through Historic Scotland. Mr Milne asked for costings of the idea. SS added that there were several issues relating to reinstatement.

Mr Duckworth stated that due to our location we were currently highly dependant on oil. The Ardoch power group in Braco have established a community buying group and are making 15% savings for the oil purchasing group. Many have co-ordinated their deliveries further cutting their carbon use. FDT have previously stated that they would not support a similar scheme on principle. Mr Duckworth asked for an explanation.

MT stated that a 50 - 60% carbon reductions are achievable with new technologies and that FDT's Mem and Arts would not sit comfortably with methods of purchasing oil.

Mr Duckworth asked if FDT could not see an inconsistency in their argument.

MT added that people needed to be persuaded away from fossil fuel as well as reducing their costs.

DS reminded everyone that FDT was a voluntary group and were receiving considerable knocks and criticisms and that there should be an understanding of the time the group have spent considering all ideas and suggestions.

Mr Haslam stated he thought that most oil users would be able to transfer to wood chip boilers and that he supported FDT's stand to further improve our carbon reduction.

SS agreed that most would be able to transfer, reducing their fuel costs and their carbon usage. SS added that the oil buying group was "A sticking plaster over a major wound" and was not a long term remedy.

No further questions.

GC added that our next AGM would be the last Saturday in October 2011.

Tea and coffee.