



Minutes of AGM - 29th October 2011

Apologies - Pete Skabara and Jamie Pearson.

Welcome - David Howell Chairperson of the Development Trust opened the meeting with a welcome to all who had attended and gave a review of the activities of the Trust over the last year and some of the proposed projects for the coming year. -

Achievements to 30 June 2011

1. An energy advisor was appointed in the village on a one year contract.
2. The energy advisor facilitated the installation of over 20 domestic micro-renewables in the village, including ground-source and air-source heat pumps, and wood pellet boilers.
3. The energy advisor also facilitated the installation of a wood pellet boiler for the Fintry Sports Club and was instrumental in obtaining a grant of £43,000 to cover the majority of the capital cost from Community Energy Scotland.
4. An enterprise project manager was appointed on a one year contract.
5. A short film, Wind of Change describing the birth and activities of the trust was produced.
6. A community orchard of apple, pear and plum trees was planted around the Sports Club field.
7. With support from the Scottish Government, a community car club called FEET was started with two cars available for use for any householder in the village.
8. The trust provided a grant of £10,000 to the primary school to help set-up a woodland classroom in the land next to the school.
9. Work on other longer-term projects like sustainable forestry was continued.
10. The trust was given 'exemplary' status by the Scottish Government and awarded a grant to support its activities until at least April 2012.
11. The trust launched its own 'Fintry Grant' programme, providing grants of up to £500 to householders who are looking to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

Plans for future periods

The trust intends to continue the work of the past few years, with the energy advisor providing advice and support to householders and other groups in the village who are interested in installing micro-renewables. The aim is to have 80% of the households on some form of micro-renewable by 2015. In the short-term the trust will continue the 'Fintry Grant' programme to assist householders in improving the energy efficiency of their homes.

The short film the trust produced has generated a great deal of interest both within Scotland and further afield. The trust intends to continue promoting the film as long as there remains an interest. Similarly, with the support of the Scottish Government, employees and directors of the trust are frequently invited to appear at community events and with appropriate support the trust intends to continue this work.

The trust will continue to investigate the sustainable forestry project and other related, larger projects like district heating. Similarly, the trust continues to look at ways of helping with the insulation of 'hard-to-treat' properties.

David then handed over to Gordon Cowtan Treasurer of Fintry Development Trust to present the financial report.

Financial Report

Gordon offered copies of the annual accounts to anyone interested and gave a brief outline of the amounts of grant funding which had been made available to the Trust. Gordon explained the use of the significant grants from the Third Sector Fund and The Climate Challenge Fund which had allowed us to employ our first Energy Advisor, Stephen Strachan and our Enterprise Project Manager, Kelly McIntyre. There was then the hiatus between funding sources which meant that Stephen moved on to other employment. The Scottish Government then bestowed 'Exemplar status' on Fintry and provided the Trust with funding until next April which now allows the Trust to continue with their work.

This has allowed the Trust to secure a new Energy Advisor, Matthew Black, who has been in post now for a couple of months and is continuing to support the community in all aspects of energy use and appropriate heating systems as well as assisting the community buildings with solutions to their energy use and heating issues. The Trust has also been able to offer a post to local graduate Chrissy Pollock as an FDT assistant - which provides Chrissy with experience and training in her chosen field while being an invaluable help to the Trust.

Gordon added that FEET (Fintry Energy Efficient Transport) had all set up costs met by Scottish Government.

FREE had passed over £15K to FDT account in the last year.

£16K has been allocated for FDT household grants. (32 x £500). 31 applications have been received so far.

Gordon then explained that the trading company FREE had actually had a really bad year due to the operation of the turbines being very poor over the last eighteen months. This is

the case for all Scottish wind farms - not just ours, but the effect is a paper loss of £84K over the year which is then added back to the loan to be paid in the future. On a positive note - the performance has been better over the last six months.

Due to the loss, The Trust had ensured that all the figures presented were accurate by inviting the Project Manager of Falck to meet with the board and review the figures together. There remains an option towards the end of year five to pay down £700K of the capital costs and the Board are actively looking at means of achieving this.

Gordon then passed to Matthew Black, Community Energy Advisor, to give his report.

Energy Advisor's report.

Matthew introduced himself and stated he was based at the Sports club and could be found there and is happy to arrange a suitable time to visit and offer advice on all heating and energy issues.

Matthew gave an outline of his activities since joining the Trust in August.

- Local contacts made 51.
- Home visits 30. of which 13 related to renewable energy and other energy efficiency advice given to a further 18.
- Installation of micro - renewables to date 3.
- Installations going ahead in near future 3

Other on- going activities

- Sports Club Boiler (installation due for completion -end of November)
- Wood fuel supplies - looking into suitability of various options.
- Menzies Hall – Looking into SPV/ Insulation measures.
- Renewable Energy Open Doors Event - Saturday 19th Nov - 2pm – 4pm - Saturday 26th Nov-2pm – 4pm – interested parties? Looking for people who would like to take part in the visits and from those who have installations and are happy to have visitors and discuss.
- Liaising with contractors on behalf of residents – Thermotec/ecoliving/rocklift
- Administering FDT grant applications.

Matthew handed over to Kelly McIntyre, Enterprise Project Manager, to give her report.

Enterprise Project Manager's report

'It has certainly been a busy past year. With many projects underway.

FEET started in the village and after initial success is now looking to expand availability beyond the full-membership criteria. We want 'your car club' to work for you!

Dozens of villagers joined FDT for tree planting and now have a fantastic community orchard of over 40 apple, plum, cherry, and I believe a pear. If you are ever out along the Sports Club grounds, please give them a bit of your care and attention.

We are continuing our commitment to local food security and seeking ways that we can support community level 'Fintry' growing habits. Please pass on your suggestions.

The Primary school has a woodland classroom, and we make sure that visitors to Fintry stop and have a peek at what has been achieved. Although a mere partner in the project, we are indefinitely proud to be part of something so fantastic.

Those of you that were here last year might recall one of our hopes has been to ensure a resilient and sustainable fuel source for the village. We are in on-going discussions with the Forestry Commission and will not rest until that has been secured.

We produced the film, Wind of Change, about the great work that Fintry have done as a community, this will be played during coffee/tea. Although vital that you all have an opportunity to see it, it is also vital that you know that impact it has had on the wider agenda. It has been sent to over 100 community groups, aching to follow your lead. With the help of local MPs, MSPs, MEPs and a member of the house of Lords hard copies have been sent to all 129 MSPs, over 75 MPs, MEPs, Lords. Additionally it has been viewed online by more than 1000 people.

It is all happening, right here in Fintry, and it is happening thanks to all of you and the rest that could not make it today. The most important event this year was (after a huge amount of work) Fintry being granted 'Exemplar status by the Scottish Government—well done! It was a fight worth fighting and thankfully you, as a strong and resilient community, are being recognised for all you do. It is a privilege and honour to work with such an amazing community.'

Kelly passed back to Gordon to give a brief outline of the proposal to change the Mem & Arts.

Change to Mem & Arts

Gordon explained to the membership the proposal to adopt a change to the duration of membership from three years to lifetime.

The current three year membership is problematical to administer with people joining on different dates. The new proposal would eliminate the problem with members remaining members unless they notify the trust of their wish to leave.

While in discussion with the lawyers about this change they had suggested some other minor changes to bring our documents up to date and in line with Company Law.

As some members had not received the e mail highlighting these changes - it was agreed to take a vote on adopting at the end of the meeting allowing time for review as needed.

Questions from the floor.

Questions received were - How many members do we have?

A. Nearing 200.

Why was the Fintry turbine not turning when others are?

A. the trust owns a 15th of the wind farm and is not dependant on the production from a specific turbine although we tend to think of T15 as ours for a sense of ownership!

Chrissy Pollock answered some general enquiry questions regarding FEET and told the membership that leaflets were available regarding signing up to the car club and that one of the FEET vehicles was parked outside if anyone wished to view.

Election of New Directors

David then asked the members who wished to stand for election to stand and give a brief introduction to who they were and why they wished to join the board.

Four candidates were standing for the two posts available.

Tony Flisch, Holly O'Donnell, Ian Frazer and Mike Smith. Each gave a brief introduction.

The members were asked to vote on their papers for their two preferred candidates.

The DVD - '**Wind of Change**' was played during the vote counting.

Holly O'Donnell and Ian Frazer were duly elected to the Board and welcomed.

Gordon Cowtan then asked for a vote to adopt the changes to the Mem & Arts.

The changes were unanimously adopted.

Tea and refreshments were served.

Next AGM meeting October 2012