



**Minutes of meeting 21/08/14. FDT HQ 7.30 pm.**

**Present:** Gordon Cowtan, Holly O'Donnell, David Howell, Hugh Edmond, Iain Frazer, Matthew Black (Senior Energy Advisor), Kayt Howell (Coordinator), Justyna Carey (Admin Assistant)

**Apologies:** Pete Skabara, Jamie Pearson, Gordon Murray, Christina Pollock (Energy Adviser)

**ACTION**

DH opened the meeting.

1. Previous minutes were approved.
2. FCE (FINTRY COMMUNITY ENERGY) minutes & banking.

MB read out the FCE minutes stating that FCE became an incorporated company on 19.06.14. IF was appointed as a chairperson and GC as a treasurer. The minutes were signed by IF. HOD pointed out that separate bank accounts should be set for FCE and she will follow up on application forms.

**HOD**

3. Projects update

**3.1. Balgair**

FDT is waiting for the return of the tenders. The application deadline for the tender submission is 12noon on 21.08.2014. MB will receive and open all applications. Stirling Council has promised to contribute £70k to the project, which will meet the funding gap. MB pointed out that running costs and billing will need to be looked into. Also changes in RHI could affect the final figures by 10%. MB agreed to look into it and add information into the spreadsheet.

**MB**

**3.2. Fintry Knowledge Hub**

KH has been working with Chris Smith to create the project parameters and funding plan. The flow chart was presented by KH at the meeting and the outline spec given to all directors present. The project may need to be part funded by different bodies to meet the targets. Project duration: 3 years, needs funding for staff, design, courses, materials, etc. FDT will be acting as a catalyst for different communities to access and share knowledge and experiences. The FKHub is aiming to be a centre for excellence providing educational resources to local communities who want to follow Fintry's footsteps. It is going to reach the grassroots of project creation, providing a spring board for other communities. IF emphasised that the project ought to aim to produce an e-accessible library in renewable energies (Fintrypedia) and wider communities will need to be encouraged to use it to full potential and also share their own knowledge and experience. KH added that the project will encourage an Eco tourism market in conjunction with courses can provided on site.

GC suggested that different funding opportunities need to be pursued such as DTAS, Scottish Renewables, EU funds. There is a possibility of Scottish government funding to up to £20m for innovative and renewable. Lobbying support of Bruce Crawford (contact his secretary to organise post referendum meeting), Alyn Smith MEP has already been approached and Chris has had a meeting with him.

**KH**

HOD raised the question “what can be done if there is a gap in funding”  
Board to consider level of investment to support project and funding acquisition.

### **3.3. SLCF**

Chrissy has completed a large percentage of the application process for the SLCF project. Project will run in partnership with Transition Stirling. The basis of the project intends to run a roadshow to other communities in the Stirling area that will involve presentations on renewable energies, Timber up-cycling and sustainable living. It will be important to encourage local volunteers within their local communities to take this work forward. FDT looking into appropriate training courses for volunteer energy advice assistants. CFF is keen to see how the partnership is developing.

### **3.4. Fintry Masterplan**

The leaflets are being distributed to as many Fintry households as accessible. ‘Fintry Possible’ posters are displayed in the SC Foyer. The venue is set to be Fintry Cross grass area where it is hoped to engage as many local residents as possible to complete a questionnaire and it will be held on the same day as Fintry Flower Show, run between 9am and 5pm. FPS can be involved in preparation (HOD) and Balfron Cubs (HOD). The results of the questionnaire will feed directly into FKHub project.

## **4. FEET**

The difficulty of accessing the Moorcar website are possibly connected to the slow internet speed at the HQ or new BT internet access restrictions applied by the BT to every customer. The WiFi internet connections will need to be resolved with FSC. The possible results could be installation of a new telephone line to the FDT HQ or using only 3G connection.

## **5. Security of Moorcar website.**

The Moorcar website administrator needs to be contacted and the security issues discussed.

## **6. Community right to buy**

MB is engaged with Stirling Council directly on this issue and believes that a separate company needs to be set up to resolve the postcode issues. GC believes that there is a government grant scheme that can help with the right to buy project and that there may be recent changes to the criteria. MB will follow it up.

**MB**

## **7. Wednesday evening sub com alternative.**

This is believed to be a good alternative to the daytime meetings for the sub com. A summary of current work can be produced and emailed to board members for approval every Wednesday evening.

ALL DIRECTORS TO VIEW and CONTRIBUTE EACH WEEK. Vote was taken and all board members approved.

## **8. FDT grants**

The grant application rate is slowing down. It is possible that the grant scheme can be opened for a second round of application. Applications from residents who did not receive the grant previously must take priority and if applications are received for 2 grants at the same time, the grants must be used for two separate measures and both conform to the grant criteria. Letters about the second round of applications need to be sent to all Fintry residents. This proposal can be taken to AGM.

**9. Steve Maclean - membership of ASHS.**

It was agreed to pay the £40 membership fee to ASHS, however due to an existing good relation with current bulk log buy scheme, the FDT may not engage in another affordable log buying scheme.

MB will liaise with Steve Mclean.

**MB**

**10. Community Energy England Conference**

The conference is to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> Oct 2104 in Tyneside and GC volunteered to attend it. KH will contact the conference organisers to confirm his participation.

**KH**

**11. AOB**

FDT website needs a professional upgrade. Options and pricing will need to be investigated. HOD agreed to ask for an expert advice.

**HOD**

Date of next board meeting 24/09/14

Date of next meeting AGM 25/ 10/14