



Minutes of meeting 22/10/14. FDT HQ 7.30 pm.

Present: Gordon Cowtan, Holly O'Donnell, David Howell, Hugh Edmond, Iain Frazer, Gordon Murray, Jamie Pearson, Christina Pollock (Energy Adviser), Matthew Black (Senior Energy Advisor), Kayt Howell (coordinator), Justyna Carey (Admin Assistant)

Apologies: Pete Skabara,

ACTION

1. DH opened the meeting. CP suggested some changes to the previous minutes.

CP, JC

2. News on Craigton and Spittalhill

GC reported on meeting with Force9 representatives. At the meeting members of Denny and Carron Valley communities were present. All present approved that F9 engaged well with all local communities. The planning application will be put forward to the Stirling Council planning commission in January next year for approval. JP reported that F9 offered some financial incentives to the community. DH suggested that FDT should send a letter to Stirling Council expressing their approval and positive interaction with F9 representatives. JP forward FCC letter to KH.

KH, JP

3. News on Earlsburn North

JP reported on a progress on the wind farm development on Earlsburn North. Communities of Gargunnoch, Kippen, Cambusbarron, Denny, Carron Valley and Fintry are engaged in consultations. FCC proposed an equal split in shares by all communities, each community would receive 1/6th of the share. Further to that suggestion, FCC proposed that during the 1st year of wind farm operation communities who missed out on the initial incentive would receive 100% of the share. FCC proposed if more wind farm developers are proposing to operate in the area, a dedicated group representing all communities (e.g. Fintry Hills Group) should be created so the negotiations would go more smoothly. JP suggested that the incentives offered by F9 on Craigton and Spittalhill sites could be split in a similar way. DH indicated if all communities agree to FCC suggestions a set of ground rules need to be established.

JP

4. AGM

KH reported that the leaflets were printed and are now distributed throughout the village. KH is to set and print out the agenda for the meeting. GC is to prepare a financial report for the previous year and upload it to the website before AGM.

KH

5. FCE and FDT agreement

HOD raised a question of potential conflict of interest between boards of FDT and FCE, where it is possible that the same people will be members of both boards. MB was asked by HOD to put together an agreement how FCE and FDT work together. The document was sent to the board on 9th Oct for a review. Burness Paull indicated that it is important to draw a proper agreement. GM stressed that in the Balgair project agreement must contain wording that FDT is not financially liable. GC suggested to ask BP if an external director preferably the caravan park resident (not connected with FDT) will make FCE board more robust. KH will report on a progress of this project at AGM.

KH

6. Balgair

MB reported that the lawyers are drafting an agreement for the Balgair district heating project. The agreement will cover lease plus a heat supply agreement and an access agreement that will allow free access for contractors to install the district heating system at properties. MB pointed out that all residents but one agreed to the external box design. He is hoping that once first boxes are erected the opposing resident will change his mind alternatively the control box can be mounted inside the property, replacing current boiler/heater. Originally the external position of the control box was planned as it gives more flexibility when a caravan/mobile home is replaced.

MB

7. Board responsibilities

HOD and KH pointed out the current external meetings/engagements (such as board/panel meeting, networking events) are a drain on staff and encouraged more board members to take more responsibilities. GC suggested that 10 different projects/actions groups can be identified that agenda or area of interest are relevant to FDT mission. KH informed that certain groups (such as SPREE or Project Dirt) are relevant to ongoing projects. However some involvement (such as the board position for SCAN) will become less relevant once funding from CCF ends. HOD agreed to pick up 10 relevant meetings/appointments that the board members could attend during a year. A vote was taken and all agree. JP was excused as his meeting schedule is already full due to his commitments at FCC.

KH, individual board members

8. FEET - lack of funding

KH reported that Car Plus recently made a decision that it would no longer fund FEET beyond the current grant. CP indicated that in her opinion Car Plus lost interest in rural car clubs as they don't appear to be as profitable as urban ones. When asked about club's expenditure CP answered that the main costs are the insurance, booking website subscription fee and car tracking. Also, other car club memberships increase however FEET membership stays the same at around 30 members. CP stated that one possible solution to this could be reducing the FEET fleet and in this way fund the usage of the remaining cars for a short term. KH suggested that it might be worth to look at different ways of booking system for the cars and this way avoiding Moorcar fees. GM pointed out that since the Car Plus grants are funded by the Scottish Government FDT could ask for some more funding to let us easier adjust to the new situation. IF suggested that there might be some "parachute grants" that are designed to help in similar situations.

CP

9. SLCF

CP has submitted 2nd draft of the application this afternoon, and is in the opinion that the majority of work for the grant application was done by her and that energy aspect of the grant is much stronger as oppose to the wood aspect prepared by TS. She feels that the grant was poorly coordinated by TS. DH stated that a line needs to be drawn to end of our involvement in the application process. This should be clearly communicated. CP said that the next step in the application process is to submit the final application with CCF at the end of the month. The panel meeting for the grant application is in December.

CP

10. FSF

CP said that she is making the last adjustments in the application process pulling all the grants together. The outcome will be after March 2015.

CCF application deadline is end of this month, there is also the possibility of Robertson Trust funding. GC and HOD agreed that that it will be good to apply for all funding.

CP

11. CCF – workshops etc.

CP stated that there is still a number of workshops needed to be done to comply fully with current CCF grant conditions. There is a 4 days in Fintry workshop coming up in November but 8 more 1 day long additional workshops need to be organised. The additional workshops need to be targeted at community leaders. HOD asked if there can be one workshop that is replicated many times. KH pointed out that there are already workshops like that i.e. very popular bee keeping.

CP

12. Sewage and water treatment plant.

MB reported on his meeting with a Fintry resident and Cicely Roy. SEPA did last river sampling in 2009 but a SEPA representative is to come to Fintry the next day (23.10). JP confirmed that Scottish Water acknowledges that they are in breach of regulations and admits to the knowledge that there are leaks in their pipe system but they are not declaring when they are going to fix it. However FCC had some progress already in negotiations with SW and they are assessing the capacity of the plant. Additionally the intended rural housing development in the village puts the waterworks system capacity at the front of the planning process.

JC reported that there is a possibility that the Endrick water can be sampled and tested at the SEPA accredited lab for possible contamination for the sewage plant but not under a formal agreement. JC believes that although sampling process and testing procedure is sound a formal agreement would be needed to make the tests credible. GC and HOD concurred that since the water was already tested by SEPA additional tests are not needed. Vote was taken and all voted that there is no need for additional water sampling.

HOD suggested that looking at the energy use with the water treatment plant can give additional angle of view at how the plant works.

JP indicated that FCC has already put in writing its stand on the issue and can pass the relevant document to MB. MB will summarise the document and contact the Fintry resident explaining how it relates to the overuse if the plant.

MB

13. Post March 15

A discussion was started on the activities that the Trust can be involved in after March 2015. KH suggested that due to its sensitive nature to the staff the directors discuss the issue in private.

Board

14. AOB

JP reposted that FCC received information that Stirling Rural is looking into possibility of developing a housing with a silver standard. This means that are looking into energy saving measures and ecological aspects of the development, such as district heating, anaerobic digester connectivity. Developer can take also apprentices creating local employment. It is planned that 30% of future rural housing will be of silver standard. There is no timescale associated with these plans. FDT can possibly be involved with the housing developer and share its knowledge.

Suggested next meeting: 26 Nov 2014