



Minutes of meeting 24/09/14. Holly's House 7.30 pm.

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

Apologies: Gordon Murray

ACTION

DH opened the meeting.

1. Previous minutes were approved.
2. Community Investment Opportunity. Force 9

JP has reported that Force 9 has approached FCC and following Graham Lambie's recommendations FCC will take up Force 9 offer. KH to follow up the conversation on behalf of FDT and contact Force 9.

KH

3. Balgair

MB reported on progress of the project so far.

The recent change to regulation means that from 20.02.15 there is going to be a 20% reduction in RHI extending the investment return period. Therefore it is advisable to start installation of the district heating system as soon as possible to avoid this. It is estimated that it can take about 10 weeks to install the heating system providing no major obstacles are encountered once order for the boiler is placed. The insurance quotes for the systems are estimated at about £795 for a year.

The meeting with Burness Paull to investigate legal issues of the project is planned on Monday (29.9) and meeting with caravan park residents is scheduled on Tuesday (30.9). MB pointed out it needs to be moved to the caravan park to engage more residents.

Possible drawbacks of the projects are the size and colour of heat exchanger and meter boxes that need to be installed at every participating household. The heating system will have a Calor Gas backup systems that the residents will need to maintain themselves.

HOD suggested that the boxes can be clad.

GC stressed that the decision needed to be made by Christmas. DH enquired about the lowest number of residents agreeing to participate in the project before it becomes not worthy to pursue. He also suggested that it is advisable to draw up an agreement in writing that will be legally binding. MB agreed to look into that. Burness Paull could draw up a contract that every household will need to sign.

MB

4. Project updates.

4.1. Fintry Masterplan

KH has reported on the project and the questionnaire outcome. There about 40 questionnaires returned and the display in the SC brought up some more suggestions. A Balfron High School project student helped to sort out and summarize the outcome of the survey. Overall feeling from the project is that the questionnaire was too complex and easily misunderstood.

KH reported that there is a follow up meeting with Lateral North in Glasgow on 20.10. Fintry Masterplan will be a part of the AGM agenda and Lateral North will be reporting.

KH, Lateral North

4.2. SLCF

CP and KH had a recent meeting with the head of CCF David Gunn who explained T&C of the possible funding. CP reported that the application need to be submitted by TS as they are the leading partner. The board of the project will be made with equal number of TS and FDT members. Sub board will manage the SLCF project and then report back to FDT board. Sub board will be made of equal number of FDT and TS members. The budget will be managed by the sub board. Sub board meetings will take place monthly and will report back to board that will meet twice a year. KH emphasised that this project will allow FDT to disseminate its knowledge and experience to wider communities in Stirlingshire while still remaining local based, Fintry focused. All jobs created by the project will need to be advertised and applied for.

DH concurred that going into partnership with be good development for the Trust and excellent opportunity to closely engage with different community based groups from Stirlingshire. The outcome of the application process is about Christmas time.

Lottery fund project £250k outcome is also around Christmas

KH CP

4.3. Knowledge hub

KH reported on the Knowledge Hub project. The project was supported by consultant Chris Smith and various media packs and digital presentations were created as initial results and were to be utilised for the Hub. HOD and GC were concerned that the project was not heading the direction that is directly beneficial to Fintry residents. KH and CP suggested that the project will need to get another focus and could possibly be scaled down and dedicated more to community needs. There are already resources available for this project such as media packs, DVDs, promotional USB portable drives that can create a good foundation for Community Information Sharing- CIS Centre. All agreed that no further media consultations are required. This pilot project could possibly bring some funding that would in return allow the FDT staff to serve the local community as energy advisors. HOD suggested that the 5 months left of current funding could allow further progress of the pilot study proposal and the outcome could be assessed then.

KH CP

4.4. Local energy

MB reported on a local energy/low cost electricity solutions project. The initial talks with SSE show that at a cost of about £16k-£17k a dedicated cable can be delivered to Fintry and a smart meter installed at every household involved. The low cost electricity can be supplied by a dedicated energy company to residents involved and FDT can set up its own tariff. MB stated that an appointment is set with a consultant on 10th Oct.

MB

4.5. Woodland in Carron Valley

There is about 20-30 acres of woodland for sale in Carron valley that Trust Board considers to purchase and plant as a sustainable woodland. HE reported that it is a difficult land to plant as it is soft soil and wet. JP worried that focus on a woodland would take too many resources and won't be worthy to pursue. HE is confident that it might be worthy to seek advice from an expert who has some local knowledge.

MB

5. FDT 2015.

The board reserved discussion for a separate meeting. The doodle poll is to be set up by CP to confirm the most suitable date for everybody.

CP

6. AGM

KH reported that the Menzies Hall is booked for 25.10, 1pm till 5pm. Residents are invited to come from 2pm.

Agenda for AGM:

- Discussion of FDT grants,
- Fintry Masterplan and Lateral North
- Board members who are standing down this year: GC and GM
- Election of 2 new directors

7. Andrew Ward from Creetown Initiative is invited to come on 22.10 and share his experience with the Trust.

KH

8. Sewage

MB and KH reported on a Fintry resident contacting the FDT HQ regarding the sewage works and Endrick pollution. JP reported on the Fintry resident contacting FCC and FCC actions to take this matter forward.

JP stated that Fintry sewage works has well known infiltration problems however the sewage works well. Anecdotal evidence shows that Scottish Water is aware of the problem but chooses to pay fines instead of addressing the problem as it is more cost effective. HOD and GC pointed out it is good to follow the Fintry resident's investigation as the state of Endrick is within the constitution of FDT. GC suggested that FDT can undertake an independent investigation of the faulty overflow system, the sewage work energy usage can be looked into too.

JP agreed that it will be good to help to the work that Cecily Roy has already carried out on this subject.

HOD stressed that FCC and FDT should receive a copy of all correspondence undertaken.

MB will liaise with a Fintry resident.

9. AOB

9.1. JP reposted that the shopper bus has received funding from the Big Lottery Fund and is paid by the new scheme from 26.06

9.2. PS has ask if his oldest daughter can do her work experience at HQ. KH, CP didn't have any objections and asked if Miss Skabara could describe what work experience she was looking for.

9.3. JP reported how the FDT grant money distributed by FCC were allocated:

- Restauration of church window
- Bowling club
- Footpath development to Knockraich Farm
- Community defibrillator

9.4. Suggestions were made how more FDT funds can be distributed within community:

CP suggested that some parts of the fund can be allocated as students grants.

Next AGM meeting on 25.10.14