



**Minutes of meeting 26/11/14. FDT HQ 7.30 pm.**

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

**Apologies:** Pete Skabara, Hugh Edmond, Gordon Murray

**ACTION**

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

**KH, JC**

2. Earlsburn audit

GC confirmed that he was contacted by two companies regarding the Earlsburn audit. The two quotes are from [www.dnvgl.com/](http://www.dnvgl.com/) for the sum of £1000 and second from another company for the sum of £2200 per order. All agreed that offer from DNVGL is more favourable and all happy that we should go ahead with the audit. GC to go back to DNVGL and finalise contract.

**GC**

3. Matthew's AD proposal/feasibility studies

MB had updated everyone with his recent progress on anaerobic digester and local energy proposal. There is a possibility to apply for an innovation grant in February 2015. CP indicated that the outcome of the proposal applications should be by March 2015.

GC reported that an idea of local energy/ local electricity is a popular topic and well explored at a recent conference he attended (<http://greenenergyscotland.com/>). He was particularly inspired by Steward Reid from SSE who was talking about virtual networks. GC has his contact details and intends to speak further to him. This line of action is particularly interesting because of recent announcement by Scottish Government to empower local communities to invest/explore local energy.

GC furthered that there are 4 ways to harvest energy/power from anaerobic digester:

- Build generator to harvest and sell H<sub>2</sub> production.
- Generate real private wire
- Virtual network
- Smart meters

All the methods have their own pros and cones but creating a real local energy is very difficult and depends on user demand of this energy. GC will follow his interest in this topic and then let everyone know his progress.

**GC, MB**

#### 4. Balgair update

MP reported on his progress on the Balgair project. Burness Paull are drafting the last customer agreements, the agreements are for residents, reception and club house. The estimate of costs for electricity are 7.7 p per unit that is 20% less than the average price per unit the residents of the caravan park are paying now for their energy. At this rate the return of the investment for FEE is projected to be 20 years. DH enquired if the overall cost included insurance cover. MB confirmed that the cost of contract, insurance and maintenance of the system were taken into consideration. After the contract expires the boiler plus the infrastructure will be gifted to the residents of the caravan park. The expected lifetime of the system is 10 years more.

GC enquired about the price of woodchip and its source. IF stressed that to claim RHI the woodchip need to be from a UK source. MB confirmed that that there are local suppliers of local wood chip.

MB pointed out that the contract drafted by Burness Paull does not cover any aspect of quality of build/build standard of the system. This could be formally added to the contract at an additional cost. After a short discussion all agreed that this can be included in the T&C of the project contract (Alternative Heat to agree to deliver a working system) and does not require an additional input from the legal team. HOD asked how it can be confirmed/assessed that the installed system is up to a good standard. GC suggested that we can hire a local independent contractor to assess the system 1 year after it is commissioned. This procedure should be covered by a standard contract retention closure. HOD pointed out the there is an appropriate insurance in place in case Alternative Heat becomes bankrupt within the project's retention period.

GC asked for the final schedule of the project and MB confirmed that all should be ready in place before Christmas.

**MB**

#### 5. FSF - Grant application

KH reported that in the FSF grant application. The deadline is very near and we are running out of time. Additionally FDT work does not fully fall within the grant eligibility criteria. All agreed that it will be best to abandon the grant pursue as it is not the best use of time.

6. New Energy Project.

KH reported on her recent meeting at Strathclyde University with Paul Younger, Pete Scabara and Geoff Williams. At the meeting the possibility of collaboration between the University and FDT was discussed. FDT would be involved in feasibility studies of ground source heat energy project that could attract up to £300k funding. The date needs to be set for meeting between University and FDT. All agreed that earliest date suitable for most will be sometime in January.

**KH**

7. Fracking.

MB reported on a phone call from a fracking activist from Chester inviting a FDT member to give a speech in renewables for their cross-party work group on 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2015. JP pointed out that the fracking group has a political agenda that FDT does not support as a Trust. All agreed that it won't be the best use of FDT staff/member time and the invitation should be declined.

**MB**

8. Woodfuel day

The giveaway day is scheduled for the 6<sup>th</sup> of December and JP is assembling a list of people from the village who would require assistance or priority to access the wood fuel.

**JP, MB**

9. Sewage

Cecily Roy has met Mr McQuarry from Scottish Water. As a result of this meeting SW accepted the ownership of the pipe at the Sports Centre. From its size it was concluded that the pipe was designed to serve as flood prevention and would explain the excess water at the sewage treatment plant. Also Anne Winther has agreed to help Cecily Roy with her campaign. FCC is happy with Cecily's progress.

10. Community trailer

IF proposed that the community could create a group and acquire a community owned car trailer that can help to deliver logs or wood pallets locally. JP suggested that the new group could be crated and function similarly as the Fintry Log Splitter group and could apply to FFC for a grant to help purchase the trailer.

11. SW pipe connection at Gartcarron

CP reported on a slow progress on possible connection of households at Gartcarron to main water pipes. She was waiting for a resident's response with appropriate paperwork.

Suggested next board only meeting: 15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2015 tbc

Suggested next meeting: 21 Jan 2015