

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE WESTRAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST AGM
HELD IN WESTRAY PARISH KIRK AT 7.30PM ON THE 23rd APRIL 2008

1. PRESENT

Elizabeth Drever (ED), Alasdair McVicar (AM), Janette Rendall (JR), David Stephenson (DS), George Thomson (GT), Alena Tulloch (AT), Stewart Rendall (SR), Sam Harcus (SH), Lorna Brown (L)

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Mike Mawer, Colin Risbridger (CR), Willie Bain, Philip Bews, Michael Blair, Peter Brown, Anne Cooper, Alex Costie, Corinne Curtis, George Drever, John Drever, Carrie Eden, Stephen Hagan, Danny Harcus, Stella Harcus, Tommy Harcus, Jo MacDonald, Willie McEwen (WM), Sandy McEwen, Ally Sangster, Jan Stephenson, Aurora Stone, Chris Stone, Jeemie Stout, Harcus Stout, Ann Beechey, Bryan Beechey, Tom Stout, Stevie MacDonald, Julie Jessett (Minutes), Alan Long, Helen Long, Various members of the press

3. APOLOGIES

Jim Corse, Iain MacDonald, Linda Drever, Dawn Sherwood, Liam McArthur, David Sawkins (Orkney Ferries), Sue Struthers, John Orr, Gaynor Jones, Tom Black, Annie Harcus, Alicen Geddes-Ward

4. WELCOME

Geordie Thomson welcomed everyone on behalf of The Trust Directors and thanked them for coming. He gave a special thanks to folk who had travelled from out with Westray for their attendance. GT gave thanks to all of the Directors for their work over the past year and a special thanks went to AT and JR, who were standing down this year after 6 years on the Board. He explained that SR had been co-opted onto the board a while back for his expertise and that he has been a real asset to the Trust.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

GT indicated that everyone should have received a copy of the draft Minutes of the last meeting together with Annual Report and Accounts by either e-mail or post. A copy of the minutes was on the overhead projector.

After going through the minutes they were adopted.

Proposed by Geordie Drever and seconded by Willie McEwen.

6. NOTICE OF ELECTION

It was confirmed that four folk were standing for election, Stewart Rendall, Mike Mawer, Keith Rendall and Willie McEwen. Due to the number standing it was not necessary to have an election; it was proposed by Geordie Thomson, the Trust accepts those standing. This was unanimously agreed.

7. ANNUAL REPORT

Chairman's Report

GT indicated that this year was the 10th anniversary of the Trust. He applauded the community and Directors for their determination. He gave thanks to all directors, past and present. GT confirmed the funding for two staff positions had been secured, a full time project delivery manager's post and a full time administration post. Colin Risbridger and Colin Merriott had been employed as the project delivery managers as a job share post. GT confirmed the expertise of each person for the projects they would be dealing with.

As only 75% of their salary had been secured from Lottery funding there was still a need to find the remaining 25% as well as any monies that would be required to take the current projects, set out in the Lottery application, further.

The Trust has purchased the golf course and adjoining land on behalf of the Golf Club and the Community through the Communities Land Unit, but there is a fair amount of work to be done on the course. The Club needs more members, especially those keen to help put up fencing and rabbit netting.

Westray Renewable Energy Limited (WRE)

DS indicated that it had been a difficult year for the project. He went into the background of an offer that had been received from Vestas and stated that after careful consideration the offer had been rejected, due to unacceptable conditions laid down by the supplier. Much of these conditions involved the remotes of Westray, supply guarantees and penalties laid upon the offer company.

At this stage they were only left with one supplier, Enercon who had indicated a 2-3 year time scale for supply of a turbine.

Since the report, though, things have moved on. WRE have been working together with Highlands and Islands Community Enterprise Company and together they arranged a meeting with Enercon. Representatives from the company attended Westray for discussions and to ascertain the problems they felt our location posed. They attended various other meetings whilst in Orkney and

following on from these they seem to be willing to talk about bending the rules for supply. Since their return to Germany they have confirmed that they are willing to offer to Westray and an e-mail received today has informed us that we should receive an offer by Friday.

DS confirmed that WRE were hoping to get the remainder of the funding required for the turbine from the Co-Op and that Enercon have now also agreed to supply to Benbecula, who are also getting some of their funding from the Co-Op so this can only help our case.

One further point that has arisen from the development of the turbine is that both the access track and the site itself require a very large amount of aggregate. DT confirmed that Orkney Islands Council has been approached about this and a working group has been set up by the Council to look into various options. This may well mean that Westray will benefit from cheaper aggregates.

Danny Marcus asked about the previous ferry constraints regarding weight and/or capacity. DT indicated that the belief is that these have been overcome.

Simon Parry asked how much aggregate Westray currently use on average per year. DT confirmed an approximate figure of 1500 tonnes. Vestas Civil and Engineering quote had indicated that 3000 tonnes alone would be required for the turbine site.

Simon asked that if the old quarry were opened could Westray not send aggregate the other way. DS confirmed that this has already been suggested to the Council.

Orkney Bio-fuels Limited

Willie McEwen (WM) gave a report on bio-fuels. He indicated that the bio fuel was ethically important as a waste product is being turned into a useful, green product that is cheaper to buy.

He confirmed that bio diesel has been made here since 2003 and that a series of developments and improvements have taken place in that time. In 2007 it was agreed that a more universally acceptable diesel fuel needed to be developed. He worked through his annual report and confirmed that currently the process is labour intensive but that this can be reduced in time.

The main costs involved in producing the diesel are methanol, caustic soda and haulage of the waste oil. He confirmed that although the Annual Report indicated a sale price of 90p per litre on re-assessment it is more realistic to set a price of £1.00 per litre.

WM confirmed that the electric car is taxed, insured, MOTed but it is not quite ready for public use. As this is a prototype vehicle a lot of "what if" questions

keep appearing and these then require modifications to be made to the vehicle. The project is moving on though.

Simon Parry asked why commercial vehicles did not have these problems and WM indicated that commercial vehicles are made from the ground up and this is a conversion, which is unique.

Mike Blair ask WM to confirm was methanol or ethanol used and he indicated his concern over the cropped land issues. WM confirmed that methanol was currently used because it is more readily available. He confirmed that the methanol bought has nothing to do with cropped land. He also confirmed that later there would be a need to plant for ethanol but that the plan was to not destroy crops but use seaweed instead.

WM indicated that a grant from INCREASE of £30,000 had been received to develop the area at Gallow Hill, providing a secure site for the development of the bio diesel. The site is in place and the containers, currently white, will be painted green. The area has been bunded. The grant paid for the development of the site, purchase of the fork lift truck, the two containers and haulage. He confirmed that he was very pleased with Danny, who had worked to the time scale and within the budget.

GT confirmed that the bio fuel project is one of the projects indicated in the lottery grant to be taken on and that Colin Risbridger was the project delivery manager for this task. Any problems or questions speak to him or Willie McEwen.

Youth and Children

LB indicated that the first workshop, held on Westray, had gone very well and the next stage is either a workshop in Eday or Papay. The final one would be held on Westray.

LB confirmed her resignation as Youth Development Worker and she thanked WDT for all of their support.

Peece Neemes – still working hard on the project. There is a draft 3D map in the Heritage Centre and folk were asked to go to the Centre to check the details of the map. Folk were also asked to go to the Centre to check house details etc. Recordings need to be re-done and the project needs local Westray folk to help out with these.

GT thanked the youth for getting involved in this project.

Education and Training

Jo MacDonald indicated that the Learning Centre now had regular opening hours. She suggested that folk call by the Centre for details of what's on offer.

Individual Learning Accounts have announced a change and this opens the scheme up to 16 and 17 years old, rather than having to be a minimum of 18.

Over the next year the Trust will be supporting the Learning Centre and looking into what will benefit the community, possibly a questionnaire will be sent out soon for this purpose. It isn't just about computing as there are many more opportunities out there with online learning.

If anyone is interested in joining the Local Steering Group let Jo know.

GT confirmed that this is another Lottery project and Colin Risbridger is the project deliver manager so see him or Jo for information/suggestions.

Environment

AT indicated that there is nothing to add to the Annual Report. GT confirmed that the assessment on the Loch of Saintear will shortly be completed and that the Trust would really like to see this project benefit everyone in the community. The Trust will be looking at ways to help the situation that will not be detrimental to farmers. They are looking to see how everyone can work together.

Golf Club

SR indicated that there is nothing to add to the Annual Report. GT confirmed that this is another Lottery project and that WDT will be looking at how the area can be used to benefit the whole of the community and not just the golf club. Colin Merriott is the Project Delivery Manger dealing with this and he is looking at re-establishing the sand dunes, amongst other things. He does have friends from a University in England who are interested in taking a look at the site. This is a major job and if folk have any ideas or questions contact Colin or Stewart Rendall.

Waste Management

GT confirmed that another project laid out in the Lottery funding was to deal with waste and to look into setting up a waste management structure for the isle. This is in the early stages and Colin Merriott is the Project Delivery Manager dealing with this, alongside Mike Mawer.

Fuel Poverty

Colin Risbridger indicated that being in fuel poverty means that you spend more than 10% of your disposable income on heating bills. This project is to help folk improve their situation, primarily looking at three things.

1. To see if folk are getting everything they are entitled too.
2. Assistance with completion of forms.
3. Improve the property and make it more fuel efficient.

Finally and in the long term reduce the price of fuel by looking at ways to perhaps produce an alternative fuel source.

The project will start by gathering data. A survey of properties will take place and CR indicated that anyone wanting their house surveyed let him know.

Treasurers Report

AM and JR confirmed that there is nothing to add to the Annual Report and that Alan Long will confirm that accounts with folk.

8. ACCOUNTANTS REPORT

Alan Long from The Long Partnership went through last year's accounts. He confirmed that no audit was required this year.

Proposed by Stephen Hagan
Seconded by Jan Stephenson

9. AOCB

Danny Harcus asked about the housing survey mentioned in the minutes of the last AGM. Sam Harcus indicated that this was an isle wide survey being produced and co-ordinate independently of the Trust. It is still in hand and ready to go, just awaiting confirmation. CR indicated that he could perhaps co-ordinate a survey just for Westray and incorporate it into the fuel poverty survey.

GT thank JJ for everything and he again thanked all the Directors for their help and commitment.

Meeting ended at 2105 and tea and coffee was served.