

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Westray Development Trust (WDT) held Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015 at 7pm in the Church of Scotland, Westray**

**Members Present:** Daniel Harcus (DH) Chair, Lizza Bain, Wullie Bain, Ann Beechey, Bryan Beechey, Philip Bews, Derek Blacklock, Peter Brown, Anne Cooper, Jim Corse, Edith Costie, George Costie, Corinne Curtis, Elizabeth Drever, George Drever, John Drever, Linda Drever, Stewart Groat, Linda Hagan, Stephen Hagan, Alistair Harcus, John Harcus, June Harcus, Sam Harcus, Caroline Kent, Douglas Leslie, Georgina Low, Helen Lumsden, Iain MacDonald, Jo MacDonald, Andy Makin (AM), Sandy McEwen, Willie McEwen, Steven McIntosh, Angela Muir, Stefan Muir, Peter Needham, Charlotte Owen, Christopher Rendall, Janice Rendall (minutes), Keith Rendall, Stewart Rendall, Ian Ricketts, Ailsa Seatter, Andrew Seatter, David Seatter, Kayleigh Seatter, Adam Sharp, Nigel Spurgeon, Michael Stokes, Angie Stout, John Stout, Mary Stout, George Thomson

**Attending:** Lynn Thomson, Rosalind Bryant, Ben Drever, Graham Wilson, Hazel Moore, Duncan Drever, Kenneth Harcus, Alan Long – The Long Partnership (Auditors for the year), Meghan McEwen –Voluntary Action Orkney

DH welcomed everyone to the AGM and read apologies from Nancy Scott. Apologies were also received from Margaret Drever, Elizabeth McVicar, Sheena and Bill Stevenson and Bill and Christine Turnbull.

DH stated thanks for the use of the Church of Scotland premises for the AGM again this year.

**Adoption of the minutes of AGM 27<sup>th</sup> November 2014:**

There is one correction to be made and that is that the AGM of 28<sup>th</sup> August 2014 should read EGM.

The minutes were proposed for adoption by Corinne Curtis and seconded by George Costie. **Motion carried.**

**Adoption of accounts to end June 2015:**

DH invited Alan Long to present the accounts to the membership. AL gave a presentation and there were no questions from the floor.

DH then stated that the Board were proposing to appoint The Long Partnership as accountants and auditors for the financial year to end of June 2016. The vote was done by a show of hands and the majority were in favour. **Motion carried.**

**Resolution to amend Article 90 of the Articles of Association of WDT:**

In accordance with sections 288 to 300 of the Companies Act 2006, the members of the Westray Development Trust who represent not less than 75% of the voting rights of those members are required to vote on the following proposed resolution at the Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Parish Kirk, Westray at 7pm on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

To amend Article 90 to:

The signatures of two out of the signatories appointed by the directors shall be required in relation to all operations (other than the lodgement of funds) on the bank and building society accounts held by the company.

The vote was done by a show of hands. **Motion carried.**

**Election of Directors:**

Daniel Harcus was resigning following the conclusion of the AGM; David Seatter and George Costie were retiring and Douglas Leslie was stepping down but standing for re-election.

DH introduced the members standing for election: Derek Blacklock, Edith Costie, Douglas Leslie (standing for re-election), Steven McIntosh, Stefan Muir, Charlotte Owen, Ian Ricketts, Andrew Seatter, Kayleigh Seatter, and John Stout. DH stated that Michael Stokes had removed his name from the nominees prior to the AGM.

There was a request from the floor that those standing for election give a short presentation stating their reasons for standing. It was felt that it was unfair to ask them to do this without prior warning but they were all given the opportunity should they wish to take it. Derek Blacklock and Ian Ricketts both introduced themselves. The ballot was then carried out. Andy Makin, Alan Long and Stephen Hagan were returning officers.

There was a break for refreshments while the vote was counted.

**Operations Manager's presentation 2014/2015:**

AM gave a short presentation on what the Trust had done during the financial year including the level of funding distributed on the island.

**Results of the election:**

61 votes were cast with no spoiled ballot papers. The following nominees received the required number of votes (more than 50% of the votes cast):

Edith Costie, Douglas Leslie, Ian Ricketts, Andrew Seatter, Kayleigh Seatter and John Stout

**Operations Manager's presentation 2015/16 onwards:**

AM showed how the budgets for this year were performing.

He also presented information on investments and the membership have the opportunity to feedback to the office by the end of November. If there are no major objections, WDT will engage with Adam & Company.

**Housing** – the membership were asked to vote on whether WDT should proceed with the proposed housing study at a maximum cost to the Trust of £5,000. The vote was done by a show of hands and the majority voted in favour.

**Motion carried.**

**Quarry development** – the membership were asked to vote on whether WDT should proceed with the proposed investigation into stone quality etc. at an initial cost to WDT of £25,000. Following the queries listed below, the vote was done by a show of hands and the majority voted in favour. **Motion carried.**

Queries:

Are the figures for projected income based on actual amounts of stone being used on the island at present? – WDT does not have the information needed to do this comparison.

Could the quarry at Rapness be used? – This was investigated previously and it was found that the stone is not of high enough quality to be used.

Would it not be cheaper to get the stone from the four sites tested rather than going for the full geological study? – The full study needs to be done for planning purposes and the sites may not necessarily be existing quarries.

What are the projected income figures based on? – Current town prices not including haulage.

Where is the money going to come from to pay for the studies? – Existing reserves of WDT.

DH then went on to say that the Board felt this significant outlay of money is not something that they should make the decision on and so decided to put it to the membership for approval.

AM continued his presentation; WDT will not offer business grants as it would be too complicated.

**Polycrubs** – the membership were asked to give feedback to AM in the office by the end of November.

**Links of Noltland dig Legacy** – the membership were asked to vote on the proposal to investigate the potential project. The vote was done by a show of hands and the majority were in favour. **Motion carried.**

**Chairperson's briefing:**

DH gave the following presentation:

*'Welcome to the new board of directors.*

*It was really good to have a pool of applicants to vote for this year and I wish you successful ones all success in your roles as directors.*

*It will be a learning curve for the first few meetings but the staff we have are well up to speed and will guide you and support you as you get to grips with being a director.*

*You will also have responsibilities to support your staff, give them clear direction in what you ask of them and as a board you have a duty to abide by the decisions that are made as a board.*

*To the members you also have a responsibility, over and above attending AGMs and paying a pound if the company fails.*

*You have a responsibility to support the organisation, especially the board of directors who you approve of and elect to manage the Trust.*

*They are not here to be shot at, their hearts are in the right place or else they wouldn't be putting themselves up for election, but they need to be supported.*

*Every decision they make will not be in total agreement with every one of you but that is healthy, that is democracy, but don't condemn them for it, there could be reasons that you aren't aware of and they also have rules to abide by legally and by OSCR the charity regulator.*

*If you have concerns, ask, and if you hear of others with concerns ask or get them to ask too and don't rely on rumour and innuendo.*

*We try to be an open organisation and our minutes are on the website. We also do an article in What's on each month to try to keep the community up to date with all that's being done and going on.*

*The board members are not paid for what they do, they give their time voluntarily for the good of this community and deserve our whole hearted support.*

*We should all be tremendously proud of this organisation called Westray Development Trust, there will be very few, if any, people who live here in Westray who have not benefitted in some way, directly or indirectly, by the Trust.*

*We have 2 full time staff, Andy, our manager, Janice, our finance and admin officer, and Angela, part time cleaning staff. Also 2 part time contracted staff, Corinne who deals with the learning centre and Hazel who takes on the tourism sector.*

*Every one of them work for more than their wage, they have a passion for the Trust and what it stands for and genuinely want it to succeed in all its areas.*

*What we have here in Westray is the envy of most of Orkney and something we should be rightly proud of. When we think of where it started back in 1998 and where it is today it's been an incredible journey, very challenging at times but hugely rewarding too. The number of people who have sat on the board is a huge percentage of our population over all those years and the number of hours allocated to building and running the Trust is incalculable, we owe so much to so many.*

*Geordie Drever is a name that was on the trust board right at the start and it never seems to go away.*

*Geordie will be the longest serving trust director by a good bit so well done.*

*The achievements of the Trust are all around us to be seen every day in our physical landscape, some of them being, Kalisgarth, Hofn, Big Turbine, Playpark, Golf Course,*

*Also fuel poverty, learning centre, a feasibility study for Westray processors along with the many smaller projects that have been helped and although we have not done everything with all those major projects they probably wouldn't have gone ahead without the Trust involvement.*

*Right from day 1 the board had a vision that some day the Trust would become a self-sustaining organisation and that has been achieved in spectacular fashion with the Wind Turbine which puts us in a very fortunate position in that we have an income of our own, which in many instances can allow us to tap into outside funding too. There are also many projects and supported projects that are not so readily seen but are just as important within our community. When we think of all those things we realise what we have here in Westray and that our community would have been very different if the Trust hadn't been formed all those years ago. We have a debt of gratitude to all those directors who worked hard to make it all happen.*

*Alongside and part of the organisation are the Project Evaluation Group or PEG for short, who assess applications and make recommendations to the board, an important and valuable part of the whole process. Also the subsidiary company of Westray Renewable Energy who look after the turbine and who have their own board of directors.*

*This hasn't been a solo journey, we were helped enormously by Alan Long, Orkney Islands Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Sorton Partners, VAO, Scottish land fund, Big Lottery, OSCR, DTAS, Burness Paull*

*Solicitors, Developing Strathclyde Limited who manage our loans, and many others itemised on the back of the annual reports.*

*We have a FANTASTIC thing here in the Westray Development Trust and I urge you all, members and directors alike, to support it, embrace it, enjoy it, build it and don't, or let it, be torn to pieces, it's much too valuable for that.'*

The 2016/17 proposed budget was presented to the AGM and the members asked to vote on the adoption of the budget. The vote was done by a show of hands and the majority voted in favour. **Motion carried.**

**AOCB:**

North Isles Landscape Partnership – Orkney had been successful in its bid and have a budget in the region of £4.3m. AM had contacted Darren Green to say that Westray are still very much interested in being involved and working with the NILP. It is expected that a Development Officer will be appointed early in 2016 with a project team set up thereafter. During 2016/17 the team will work with groups to develop projects with the implementation of those projects starting in 2017.

DH thanked everyone for attending the AGM and with no further business to discuss, closed the meeting at 9pm.

Stephen Hagan spoke to say that he thought it appropriate that DH should be thanked for his work within the Trust and he was given a round of applause.