

Minutes of Westray Development Trust Board Meeting
Thursday 5th May 2022 at 19:00 via ZOOM

Present: Anne Burgher (AB), Coilla Drake (CD), Steven Drever (SD), Harmandeep Gill (HG), Douglas Leslie (DL), Gill McEwen (GM), Louis Pottinger (LP) (Chair), David Stephenson (DS), George Thomson (GT).

Attending: Isobel Thompson (IT), Clare Walker (CW)

1. Apologies: None

2. Minutes of previous board meeting:

Meeting on 07/04/2022

Proposed - GM; seconded - AB

3. Matters Arising:

Any matters arising were covered in the Operations Report (Item 5).

4. Administration and Finance Officer's Report:

Micro Turbines

The Burray Boatyard had been out the previous week to service both the Kalisgarth turbine and Höfn turbine. Both turbines were showing signs of wear due to lack of maintenance and both turbines required new spring sets fitted. During the inspection of the Höfn turbine it was also noted that the inverter is not functioning, a quote for a replacement was over £1,500 plus VAT, this is on top of the £1291 the maintenance inspection and spring sets cost (this was in total for both turbines). MM raised the point that, in 2018 when a new nacelle was required for the Höfn turbine, the discussion was had about the financial viability of continued repairs to the turbine and whether it might be more cost effective to decommission the Höfn turbine.

The Board discussed what the potential options were for either repairing, replacing or scrapping the turbine and want to establish some more information in order to make an informed decision, including:

- Historical income generation for the turbine to enable estimates of future earnings to be made
- Whether there is potential to hook more of the garden projects assets up to the turbine to make greater use of the electricity generated
- Ask Burray Boatyard their opinion on the condition and, therefore, predicted life of the turbine; are we likely to see large ongoing repairs in future?
- Contact Reflex Orkney to seek advice on options for replacing the turbine
- Establish the status of the FITs award should the turbine be replaced

ACTION: Staff team to collate the requested data relating to the Höfn turbine.

CCLA

The investment report for this quarter was included in the Board papers from CCLA. MM had also receive an invitation to attend a Charity Investment event in Edinburgh. There were no volunteers to attend and it was noted that most of the event seemed to be refreshments rather than speakers, given the cost of travel and accommodation, it was decided WDT need not attend.

WRE Report

The FITs payment from SSE was made in early April and an interim payment of £50k has been made by the insurers.

5. Operations Report

Housing – Bayview

We are still awaiting an up to date completion date, this is still due to delays with suppliers and sub-contractors. The next housing update meeting is scheduled for next week. GM is planning to attend as part of the transition between Operations Manager appointments.

Once EPC certificates have been gained for the project we can move forward with the land lord registration process. This will not delay letting the flats once complete.

Bargain Box

The architect has been chased regarding the works needed to finalise the building warrant for the new extension.

ACTION: IT to continue chasing Shane Scott.

Public Bins

As yet, there have been no tenders received but there has been an interested party.

The shareholders of the grazing rights to the kelp green are still to be contacted. This can be done once a list of households is received.

ACTION: IT to contact kelp green shareholders.

Broadband

The re-scheduled ZOOM North Isles Digital Forum is set for 9th May 2022.

As yet, there have been no responses from the Scottish Islands Federation or Orkney Islands Council (OIC) regarding proposed VoIP changes.

Cloudnet have been in touch about their plans to roll out fibre to premises for Westray. CW will contact Shona Croy at OIC to enquire whether there are any plans for OIC to contribute to Community Broadband solutions for Westray.

ACTION: CW to contact Shona Croy

Westray Food Fund

IT has been in touch with OIC with about a Westray Food Fund, unfortunately, they are short staffed at present and are unable to assist at this time. However, they have suggested they could share their household lists but this does not contain information on number of people in each household so would be of limited use for a voucher scheme.

Handover

IT is in the process of writing a comprehensive handover document that will assist the Board and any new appointment with the transition.

In the interim period between appointments the WDT Board have allocated points of contact for different projects to work alongside the staff team:

Housing Project – GM

Bargain Box – AB

Hofn/Home Help/WDT Office – LP

Garden Project – LP

Broadband – DS

Other

The Board Agreed that there were no objections to IT's ongoing involvement with Wireless Westray after leaving her post of Operations Manager and the Board noted the success of the podcast and how well received it is in Westray and further afield.

6. Graduate Report

There have been over 40 responses to the community consultation so far, which is a great number. The consultation closes on 6th May, after which Kieran (KF) will be collating and analysing the outcomes and will share these results with the Garden Subgroup initially.

The seed swap event was very successful and raised over £200 for GoGo Olive and lends itself to becoming an annual event.

KF will be making arrangements for the research trip to Stronsay and Papa Stronsay and CD, SD, LP and DL all expressed an interest subject to work commitments.

ACTION: KF to share survey results with Garden Subgroup

ACTION: KF to organise trip to Papa Stronsay

7. PEG Recommendation

CG04-2021 – Cycling Without Age

Some further information had been requested from the applicants before a funding decision could be made and this had been forthcoming. The Board Agreed to award funding.

Funding Award - £24,100 (100%)

ACTION: CW to inform the applicants of the Board's decision.

8. Correspondence

- a. A handmade 'Thank You' card had been received by the Trust from the children of Westray Playgroup for the funding awarded to enable the inflatable weekend to be held in March 2022.

9. AOCB

- a. Westray Community Council (WCC) had been in touch with the WDT office to enquire about whether WDT intended to make repairs to the picnic area at Sand O Gill. CW confirmed with WCC that a plan had been made and materials purchased for the repair and maintenance of the fence and picnic area and that this work would be progressing soon. The carpark area requires attention and The Board Agreed to contact Daniel Marcus and request some interim repairs; once the area is no longer required for storage for materials for Bayview it should be reinstated to its original condition by the contractor.

ACTION: IT to speak to Daniel Marcus about interim repairs to the Sand O Gill picnic area carpark

- b. GM had been in touch with a representative from the North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme (NILPS) to get an update on the status of the core paths project for Westray. A tender for the works has recently been advertised and it expected that work will begin towards the end of the summer season.

10. Date of Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd June 2022.

CW left the meeting at 8:00pm.

11. WDT Board Only

I. P. Paingon

