

**MINUTES OF THE WESTRAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST AGM HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 20TH APRIL 2005 AT 7.30PM IN THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND,
WESTRAY**

PRESENT

Willie McEwen, Geordie Drever, Alena Tulloch, Iain MacDonald, Peter Needham, Ally Sangster, Jenna Hume, John Talbott, Robbie Rendall and Liz Drever

IN ATTENDANCE

Liz Drever, Helen Lumsden, Danny Harcus, Lizza Bain, Christopher Rendall, George Thomson, Annie Harcus, Eleanor Johnston, Sandy McEwen, Jessie Rendall, Nancy Scott, Elizabeth Seatter, Angie Stout, Wilma Stout, Jo MacDonald, Alan Forrester, Christine Harcus, Stella Harcus, Steve Langford, Lorna Brown, Craig Wilson, Jennifer Wilson, Linda Drever, Jan Stephenson, Dave Stephenson, Anne Cooper, Douglas Leslie, Jim Corse, Michael Blair, Peter Brown, James Stout, Brian Scott, Willie Bain, Tom Rendall, Janice Rendall, Phillip Hellewell, Graham Maben, John Drever, Violet Drever, Colin Risbringer, Emma Harvey, Gina Rendall, Sam Harcus, Kate Townsend, Leo Kerr, Mellisa Thomson, Paul Lawton, Rose Seagreif, William Sichel, Dawn Sherwood, Vicky, Mike Reid, Alan Long, Helen Long.

1 APOLOGIES

David Steele (OIC) Neil McCallum(OIC), Rory Dutton (HIE), Ken Grant (OE), Stephen Hagan (OIC Convener), Mari Ross (Communities Scotland), VAO, Jim Wallace (MSP), Alistair Carmichael (MP), Stronsay Development Trust, Janette Rendall, Yvonne Rorie, Elaine Langford

2 WELCOME & CHARIMANS REPORT

Geordie Drever thanked everyone for coming and especially all the representatives who had crossed water to be with us.

Willie McEwen began the chairman's report by stating that one of the main issues from last years AGM was that folk felt there was a lack of communication with the public. He wanted to thank Iain MacDonald for the superb newsletters issued after each trust meeting.

Also the Friends of Westray Scheme has not been widely advertised but it is in hand.

This year was also the launch of the new Development Plan, "The Tide is Turning". So much from the original plan "Turning the Tide" had been achieved that it was felt a new plan was needed so that we can look forward with new ideas.

The Westray Development Trust is at a changing point. Although Orkney Enterprise and Orkney Islands Council have both agreed to provide a 1/3 each towards the LDO post the Trust knows that the pots of money will come to an end. The trust would like to take this opportunity to thank Orkney Enterprise and Orkney Islands Council for there support.

There are two options one is to downsize the other is take a pro-active role and make money. The option the trust has gone for is to be pro-active through renewables.

The last thing Willie had to say was to thank the staff of the Trust for there hard work. Sam Marcus as LDO worker and SCHRI advisor. Lorna Brown, Youth Development Worker, although Lorna is an employee of Orkney Islands Council she works with the Trust on lots of projects and we're very thankful to her. Colin Risbridger, Renewables officer, Pushing projects forward as always. Alan Drever, Hofn Caretaker and Bus Driver. Gina Rendall administrative assistant and Yvonne Rorie, Clerk. Angela Muir who at the moment is running the crèche and has done so on various occasions.

There are four directors standing down this year, Elaine Langford, Peter Needham, Iain MacDonald and John Talbott. All of these directors have made substantial contributions in many different ways so we would like to pass on our thanks too them.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Copies of the minutes were on chairs and up on the screen.

Proposed by Ally Sangster
Seconded by Jan Stephenson

3 NOTICE OF ELECTION

The Westray Development Trust can have 9 – 15 directors. This year there are 4 standing down and only 3 names forward so there will be no Election.

All of the names were proposed and seconded by the board.

4 ANNUAL REPORT

Care Centre – Iain MacDonald

Iain informed the meeting that there was a provisional date for the official opening day but as it's only provisional he saw no need to advertise this as yet. He also wanted to publicly thank Dawn Sherwood who has been project manager for the care centre. She has been behind the project from day one.

Heritage – Peter Brown

Nothing to report

Tourism – Sandy McEwen

Some numbers were queried, to be followed up.

Youth – Lorna Brown

Lorna let everyone know that the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Young Roots project had been successful and they have received £19,000. So the project can go ahead and they are planning an open day on May the 7th in the Old Kirk. The Young folk that are in the report are the core group behind this project and if anyone would like more details contact them or Lorna.

She also added that with the help of Gina she's trying to update her database of the young folk in the island. Primarily to update contact details for folk so that she has the resources to keep in touch with everyone. So she hoped that folk here would encourage there young folk to fill in the slips and return them.

Geordie added that Lorna has done a lot of work this year with Courses. There have been Dry stone Dyke, Digger Driving, Forklift Driving, Desk top publishing, Sage Accounting and Lime Harling in the last few months. Not only did she encourage Westray folk to sign up she had folk coming from the other islands and mainland to join in. Comments back from these courses have all been positive and Lorna has done a great job.

LDO Report – Sam Harcus

Nothing new to report.

Geordie thanked him for all his hard work and said that they were beginning to realise how much work happens in the office.

Environment Report – Alena Tulloch

This group has had a slow few years as it was started then there was a bit of a gap then this new group were landed in it. They are obviously doing things right though as this year there was 285 plus bags or rubbish gathered on Bag the Bruck weekend compared to 150 the previous year so well done.

Transport – Danny Harcus

Nothing new to report.

The Annual report was proposed by Liz Drever and seconded by John Talbott.

5 FINANCIAL REPORT

At last years AGM the board asked to be given the power to change there accountant which was granted. After setting up a list of desired criteria and asking to tenders the Long Partnership were successful.

Alan Long gave the report this year as Janette couldn't make it. Everyone had financial summary sheets on there seats to look over and Alan went on to go over theses accounts in detail The accounts were proposed by John Talbott and seconded by Nancy Scott

A proposal that the Westray Development Trust continue to there relationship with the Long Partnership was proposed by Danny Harcus and seconded by Douglas Leslie.

6 CONSTITUTIONAL AMMENDMENTS

Geordie informed the group that as the WDT constitution stands they have no rights to borrow. This means that the trust can't borrow any money of any kind not even a credit card. The Board were seeking the approval of the members to change the constitution to allow borrowing.

Danny Harcus asked if there would be a restriction to the borrowing? Willie replied by saying that anytime money needed to be borrowed then professional advice would be sought.

Steve Langford asked what the trust would use as security and whether members were liable? Willie informed the group that as members they are only liable to pay £1.00 if anything went wrong.

A vote was carried out too see what everyone thought

51 members in attendance
33 were in favour
0 were not in favour
18 did not vote

BREAK FOR TEA & COFFEE

7 RENEWABLES UPDATE

Colin Risbridger gave a power point presentation on renewables to update the group.

Westray Renewable Energy Ltd and Orkney Biofuels Ltd have been set up as companies by the Trust.

There was a common vision set with regard too renewables which makes things easier. A vision to become a 100% renewable Island, to encourage youth involvement, to identify renewable energy sites, investigate bio fuels, reduce the number of folk living in fuel poverty, get onto the national grip so that we can sell our power.

At the moment WRE Ltd are progressing with the anaerobic digester and have audited 26 farms which is more than enough supply. They hope to have tenders out by May – June and built by Oct- Nov. They are also trying to get an answer from QMS to make sure that this won't jeopardise the market for farmers.

The electricity produced would be enough to run a 100kw engine every day all year. Tidal Power was discussed and although this may be an option there needs to be huge investment so there would have to be money made so that the group had money to invest in it.

With regard to the Wind project there are many options to investigate. The three main options at the moment are having a community project, private investment or a loan from the bank. The

community project is the most desirable. The group are looking at various options to fund the project, private money, grant funded, or borrowed.

The land ownership process was explained. The project team found the most suitable sites then took into consideration the buildings, power cables, tv masts etc around the areas and saw what they were left with. Landowners were invited to tender, lease, sell or whatever their preference was.

The late Mowat Rendall's offer was accepted. Lawyers acting for Mowat's estate have confirmed that we can continue with our plans for the site. Access to the site is under negotiation.

The Biofuels group are exploring growing crops such as rape seed and turnip seed. Sugar Beet's yield hasn't been that promising but can be used as a petrol substitute. They are waiting for the oil press from Scandinavia.

Crops would be grown in Westray now if the group were confident but they aren't confident enough at the moment, they will know more when they know the yields and they can't comment on amounts needed at this stage.

8 AOCB

Danny Marcus asked for a Electric car update and how the running of the car will be organised? All the parts for the car are in Westray apart from the Batteries because the parts are so expensive this has been a slow process as the trust had to pay for things then wait for the grant money to come in before they could order more. The Batteries have been ordered from Texas, they are made in the east and take three months to make.

They hope to have a user group so that they can devise the best way for the community to access the car.

The group also took the opportunity to announce a meeting on the 4th of May so that directors can be elected for Westray Renewable Energy Ltd. Folk interested in the project are invited to come and stand for election if they want and vote.

9 ELECTION RESULTS

As there was no election all that was left for Willie to announce were the names put forward for election.

Janice Rendall, Jim Corse, Dave Stephenson

Willie thanked everyone for coming and ended the meeting at 9.35pm