

MINUTES OF THE WESTRAY DEVELOPMENT TRUST AGM
HELD IN WESTRAY PARISH KIRK AT 7.30PM ON THE 28TH MARCH 2007

1. PRESENT

Elizabeth Drever, Alasdair McVicar, Janette Rendall, David Stephenson, George Thomson, Alena Tulloch

2. IN ATTENDANCE

Lizza Bain, Willie Bain, Phillip Bews, Lorna Brown, George Drever, Linda Drever, John Drever, Stephen Hagan, Danny H Marcus, Sam H Marcus, Annie H Marcus, Stella H Marcus, Julie Jessett, Douglas Leslie, Iain MacDonald, Jo MacDonald, Willie McEwen, Sandy McEwen, Alan Long, Helen Long, Gina Rendall, Nancy Scott, Jan Stephenson, David Jeffrey, M Mawer, Neil H Marcus, Aurora Stone, Christopher Stone, C Drake.

3. APOLOGIES

Jim Wallace, Morag Robertson, Jane Thomas, Orkney Housing Association Ltd, Orkney Ferries, Highlands & Islands Enterprise Ltd, Gaynor Jones, Linda Hagan, Ernie Skea

4. WELCOME

Geordie Thomson welcomed everyone on behalf of The Trust Directors and thanked them for coming. He briefly set out the program for the evening.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

A copy of the minutes was on the overhead projector. The only amendment was the spelling of Alistair McVicar.

After going through the minutes they were adopted.

Proposed by Geordie Drever and seconded by Jan Stephenson.

6. NOTICE OF ELECTION

It was confirmed that Robbie Rendall was standing down as Director. There were two standing for election. Lorna Brown & Sam H Marcus. 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. CHAIRMANS REPORT/ANNUAL REPORT

Geordie Thomson stated that the last year had been very busy on difficult issues but it still was a very rewarding organization to be involved in. He encouraged people to put their names forward as Directors. He thanked all who took part and ran the design course held in the new Learning Centre, which led to the publication of a fine annual report on a limited budget. The Trust office had moved to Westray Parish Kirk and he thanked for Kirk for the use of the office space and gave thanks to Peece Neemes for sharing the office. He thanked the 105 Trust members, plus those who had signed up tonight and gave special thanks to the Directors, especially David for both his Westray Development Trust and Westray Renewable Energy work. He then went through the Annual Report.

Staffing

Staffing was now down to one part time administrator, which was being funded from reserves until May 2007, the cut in hours was to reduce outgoing costs. If more funding is secured The Trust were hoping to keep the post going after that time. He thanked Gina and Julie for their efforts and flexibility as administrators, explaining that Gina had now left and Julie, who covered Gina whilst on maternity leave, has returned to the post.

Digester

The digester project had not gone ahead due to timescale issues, amongst other things. The Trust had secured 800K but still needed 200K and they would have had to risk the Trust's assets which include the Golf Course, the Turbine site and the Hofn with no guarantee that the project would be successful. There had also been other issues regarding the use of animal by products in the digester which in turn could cause problems with the subsequent use of the fertilizer produced, especially on farms that were members of QMS (*Quality Meat Scotland*). It was decided after a lot of discussion, that it was too big a risk to take and was therefore shelved. The Trust could not risk losing the turbine site either.

Green Issues

Nothing to report.

Golf Club

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.

Youth

There is a lot going on under the youth umbrella. Lorna Brown is employed by Orkney Islands Council and she is a good person to have around who focuses on all the different projects in tandem with The Trust.

Housing

Sam Marcus stated that a questionnaire should be going out to all homes shortly focusing on specific housing needs on the isles.

Westray Renewable Energy (WRE)

David Stephenson asked if there were any questions on the Annual Report, which was produced in January. None.

Over the past year WRE had been concentrating on sorting out how to transport the crane to Westray. This was now in hand and the wind assessment for the site had been done. Unfortunately, the annual wind speed was above that for the usage of the proposed turbine. In one respect this is good because it means that it will drive the turbine at a speed which will produce a good income but only if it is operating in the parameters of the turbine. WRE are currently trying to rectify this issue.

The Business Plan has been lodged with a number of Banks and WRE are indebted to HICE for all of their assistance. Four Banks have been highlighted by them as being interested in Westray's Business Case. They have seen that Westray has a good wind for producing good income. WRE now need to focus on re-working the case and the costs involved.

An application has been made to The Big Lottery Fund, which is currently progressing. WDT are putting in the bid as WRE are a commercial business so they can't. If successful this will allow WDT to have greater control over the income produced by the turbine and so ensure the money is returned to the community. They have currently got through the first application and part 2 needs to be in by the end of April. If successful we could get as much as 1/3 of the total cost of the 1.8m project.

DS explained that WRE were treating this meeting as their AGM. He therefore explained the set up of WRE stating the number of Directors. He confirmed that Ally Sangster had stepped down and that David Stephenson, Philip Bews, Willie Bain were available for e-election. This was agreed with no objections. If anyone was interested in becoming a Director they were to speak with DS.

Bio-fuels

Willie McEwan(WM) gave a report on bio-fuels. He confirmed that the project of re-locating the bio-fuels site to a bunded yard (required by 2006 legislation) had now begun. An all terrain fork lift truck has been purchased which enables the 1000 ltr containers of oil to be transported easily. The development of the Gallow Hill site can start as soon as planning permission has been granted. WM explained that the current vegetable oil being cleaned up suits cars 1992-2000 so bio-fuels were looking into an alternative for the modern cars of today. We are hoping to end up with fuel to suit all diesel vehicles which will be delivered to the end user by pump, which will eventually be placed at Rendall's store. He confirmed that the new fuel would suit both old and modern vehicles and that the fuel duty would be the same. The bio-diesel went on sale commercially in August and they had sold more than 10,000 ltr already. WM thanked the other Directors of Bio-fuels (Willie Bain and Ivan Rendall) for their assistance.

With regard to the car slow progress was being made.

Fuel crops – Bio-fuels were looking into an alternative for petrol run vehicles and this was based on bio-ethanol which is produced from grain crops. Unfortunately these crops do not grow well here. The brewery is in place for the production of the bio-ethanol but the company was waiting for the time to move the project forward. This brewery could of course be used to produce a local beer instead of petrol so there is potential there for other things.

Oil seed rape has been grown at the college as a trial batch. Bio-fuels had pressed one batch but the cost involved in pressing outweighed the amount of oil produced. To make it viable it would need to be mass produced.

8. ACCOUNTANTS REPORT

Alan Long from The Long Partnership went through the procedures and last year's accounts. He also explained a bit about what was involved with the audit.

Accounts proposed by David Stephenson.
Seconded by Lizza Bain.

9. AOCB

Iain MacDonald requested that copies of the accounts be placed on seats at the next AGM – agreed.

Lorna Brown stated that Peece Neemes was up for an award.

Meeting ended at 2110 and tea and coffee was served.