

**Minutes the AGM of Westray Development Trust (WDT) held on Monday 8th June 2009 at 7.30pm
in the Westray Parish Kirk.**

Present: George Thomson (GT), David Stephenson (DS), Lorna Brown (LB), Elizabeth Drever (ED), Alasdair McVicar (AM), Mike Mawer (MM), Stewart Rendall (SR), Keith Rendall (KR), Sam Harcus (SH).

In attendance: Alan Long, Ernie Skea, Gaynor Jones, Hannah MacDonald, Leanna Chilcott, Simon Parry, George Mowat-Brown, Steven Bain, Willie Bain, Phillip Bews, Cathy Bews, Peter Brown, Anne Cooper, George Drever, Linda Drever, Carole Eden, Danny Harcus, Eleanor Johnston, Jo MacDonald, Willie McEwen, Meghan McEwen, Peter Needham, Jessie Rendall, Colin Risbridger, Harcus Stout, Alena Tulloch, Georgina and James Low

Welcome: GT welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. He gave special thanks to those who had travelled from Kirkwall to attend.

Apologies: Iain MacDonald, Sandy McEwen, Corrine Curtis, Liam McArthur, Robert Leslie, Catherine Turnbull, Chessa Llewellyn-White,

Minutes of last AGM: GT went through the minutes of the 2008 AGM on the over head. The minutes were proposed by Lorna Brown & seconded by Colin Risbridger.

Notice of Election: There were 3 directors to stand down but could stand again for re-election: GT, AM & ED. All were standing again and also Carole Eden and Simon Parry. GT said that LB was standing down. It was unanimously agreed to re-appoint the 3 directors up for re- election and also to appoint Carole and Simon.

Annual Report: The annual report was on over head and GT went though the chairman's report. He said it had been a frustrating time with the turbine, more so for WRE, but he believed this was now past and the future was looking brighter. The money from the turbine would help things along but it wouldn't be solely responsible for keeping Westray going; this would be down to the people of Westray's abilities to get things done and work together.

WRE: DS talked through the WRE report and added some points. The finance side had proved to be somewhat of a headache but seemed to be cleared up now. WRE are receiving a bank loan from Triodos and a 'loan' from WDT of the Big Lottery money. Smartest Energy is the company who WRE hope will be buying the electricity and they await accreditation from Ofgem so as ROCS can be collected. The problem with the foundation has now been resolved. DS thanked Robert Rendall & Co for pulling out all the stops to get the aggregate to Westray for the access track and the foundation.

Simon Parry asked if money would be available in 2010 or 2011; DS replied that money would be available in 2011 as the turbine would have been operating for a year and WRE have 6 months after the end of the financial year to decide how much money will be passed to WDT through Gift Aid .The loans will be being repaid from 2010; the money from WDT will be paid back to WDT but doesn't have to be paid back to the Big Lottery as it is a grant. The turbine will be generating an income from September 2009 but monies will have to be paid back to the bank and other creditors.

Gaynor Jones asked if WRE Ltd was a trading arm of WDT; DS replied yes as WDT is a charity and can't trade.

Colin Risbridger asked if there was some way of getting the names of everyone on the island into the concrete of the foundation; DS said he'd have to talk to Derek Heddle about this.

George Mowat-Brown asked if there would be rules on who the Trust could assist; DS replied there would be implications due to the fact the Trust is a charity and must work to charity regulations.

Danny Harcus expressed his concerns over the public being encouraged to visit the turbine site as there would be huge Health and Safety implications; DS pointed out that he had spoken to Derek Heddle and had to point out that it is a construction site. There would be an open day for the public to see the stage it is at.

Gaynor Jones said she wanted to make the point that what Westray is doing is very innovative and that we should be proud of our achievements so far.

GT thanked all the directors of WRE Ltd and WDT for their hard work on the turbine.

Orkney BioFuels: GT pointed out that Keith Rendall is the director in charge of BioFuels as Willie is now employed by the trust. WM said that they are very nearly ready to start selling the fuel direct to the public through a retail forecourt pump at WI Rendall's but the electric connection wasn't quite ready. The fuel can't be used in cars newer than 2007 due to changes in these car's mechanisms. WM pointed out that he suspects that Westray has the most northerly retail Biodiesel in the UK.

Steven Bain asked about the project of making ethanol from seaweed; WM replied that the microbrewery is in its 1st stage and that Orkney BioFuels would like to hit the petrol scene as well as the diesel scene but the problem is finding the time to fit everything in. Steven asked if this process had already been tried; WM replied not as such.

Electric Car: The batteries on the electric car had gone on fire and WM is in negotiations with the manufacturers of them.

GMB asked how long it would be until the car was ready to go into service; WM replied that he was unsure of a timescale.

Simon Parry pointed out he had heard/read a quote somewhere that 'the electric car has transformed the lives of disabled people on the island'; WM said he had not said that and didn't know where that had come from. Simon continued to say that he believed the electric car project should be stopped as it was taking too long and seemed to be an expensive project. He said it would have been cheaper to buy 2 electric cars; WM replied that at the time the grant was applied for the electric cars were not available. He pointed out that the total project cost was £77k with the turbines at the factory and Rapness costing £25k and £12k respectively. The project is a difficult one as the car had to be built from the start and the lack of expertise on the island was holding it back. There is someone who comes up on holiday every year who works on the car and it's looking likely that they will be moving to the island so WM is very hopeful that the project will come to fruition soon. The car must be made safe against misuse.

Steven Bain asked what the purpose of the car was; WM pointed out that the project started when WDT got the chance to bid for a grant to develop transport powered by wind. He said at the time the island seemed to put an emphasis on transport for disabled people.

GMB asked at what point would WDT walk away from the project; WM pointed out that there is money in the WDT budget for the project and that he had also put his own money into the project so wouldn't walk away from the project.

GT thanked WM for all his hard work most of which had been done voluntarily.

Youth & Children: GT explained that the Youth Development Worker post was funded through OIC and was a very valuable post to Westray. MEG gave an update on what had been happening recently, she explained that the winter workshop series was now finished; this was through funding that Lorna had successfully applied for and included children from Papay and Eday. It had been a series of workshops including activities such as cookery and welding and had been a great success although getting the children to and from Eday had proved to be a slight headache. MEG hopes to get together a drama group and put on a play for the public.

Ernie Skea pointed out that the post wasn't funded from OIC but co-ordinated through OIC. It was actually funded by the Fairer Scotland Fund but this had now stopped and they were actively seeking funding from elsewhere to enable them to keep the post going. He thanked everyone for their support from across the islands.

GT said the important thing was that we were all working together to find funding and he thanked Ernie for all his help.

SH pointed out that perhaps this could be one area where the income from the turbine could be used.

ZERO WASTE CENTRE: GT explained that Mike Mawer was the director in charge of this project and that Janice Rendall had taken over as project manager when Colin Merriott left the island. There had been some problems with the handover but that these had been overcome and that work was progressing slowly but surely. The main priority is to get the building up which will be for the storage of recyclables.

FUEL POVERTY: Alastair McVicar is the director in charge and Meghan McEwen is the project manager. The name of the project is quite unfortunate as it doesn't encourage people to take part. There is an immense amount of work been done and ongoing. AM explained that Orkney is the 2nd worst area in Scotland for fuel poverty which is where the household spends more than 10% of their disposable income on energy in their home. Westray is one of the worst areas in Orkney. He explained that WDT were very fortunate to have Colin Risbridger working on the project in the first year and he is still part of the subgroup and a great help through his new role. Almost half the houses in Westray have been surveyed and the results are based on a national system where the acceptable standard is 6-7/10; Westray comes in at 0-4/10. WDT received a grant through the Scottish Power Energy People Trust of £66k which means that Meghan can be employed 2 days a week. The rest of the money will be used as a revolving loan to assist householders to install insulation in their homes. The Citizens Advice Bureau had been in Westray in February and through just six visits had managed to bring almost £26k to the island.

EDUCATION & TRAINING: Jo MacDonald is the project manager for this project funded through the Big Lottery. She thanked those who had taken part in the recent questionnaire and said that the findings revealed that a lot of people wanted courses in IT, Genealogy and Scottish Country Dancing. Short courses are available through Orkney College. The centre are looking for tutors in various skills and adverts will be in the shops asking people to get in touch if they think they have a skill which they'd be happy to teach others.

GOLF COURSE: The course opened today for the season. The project is funded through the Big Lottery. Part of the outcomes of this is to provide other amenities to the public. Gina Rendall had been employed as project manager but had now resigned so notices would be in the shops within the next week looking for someone to take over.

Accounts/Adoption of Accounts

Alan Long went through the accounts for the financial year. The accounts were adopted by Geordie Drever and seconded by Peter Needham.

Appointment of Auditors

It was proposed that The Long Partnership be the auditors and this was unanimously agreed.

AOCB

Confusion between Energy Action Westray and WDT: CR explained that Energy Action Westray were a separate company from WDT but were working closely with the Trust to bring forward renewable projects. He explained that he and Sam had set up the company to bring forward renewable projects in Westray as WDT had become more involved in the erection of the wind turbine. EAW are a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. He explained that EAW were using the waste grass in their digester and were looking at ways of transporting other organic wastes. He explained that they had taken on projects where WDT either didn't have time to do it or they may have caused a risk to their existing assets.

There was some question and answer time. GT thanked Colin for coming and clearing up the situation.

GT thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked Directors and staff for their work over the year. The meeting was closed at 9.40pm and tea and coffee was served.