

Minutes of the Board meeting of Westray Development Trust held Monday 25th March 2013 at 7pm in the Haff Yok

Present: Daniel Marcus (DH) (Chair), Douglas Leslie (DL), David Seatter (DS), George Costie (GC), June Marcus (JH), Philip Bews (PB), Ann Rendall (AR), Margaret Hutchison (MH), George Drever (GD).

Attending: Janice Rendall (JR) Minutes, Corinne Curtis (CC) CDO, Alan Long (AL) Advisor to WDT

1 Financial advice meeting with Alan Long:

DH began by giving the background to the situation and the reasons why Alan had been invited to advise the Board. A list of questions had been circulated to the Board and given to AL prior to this meeting. DH handed over to AL.

The main points that were raised during the meeting were if and how WDT should fund the CIC that is already set up; should WRE be looking to repay the Triodos loans early and how this could be done; tax implications; lending to individuals and businesses; employment issues; financial investment of funds.

DH thanked AL for his time and AL left the meeting at 8.40pm.

The general Board meeting commenced at 8.45pm

2 Minutes of Board meeting held Monday 4th March 2013:

Proposed JH Seconded GC

Matters arising:

BioFuels – DH and DS had a meeting with Willie and Sam McEwen and they are keen to get this project moving forward. Approval for the moving of equipment was given by the Board through email. The draft lease has been sent to WM and we await his response.

The new socket in the office has been installed.

The Big Hanna composter is still to be moved.

JH has moved all the cans from the bus shed.

3 PEG:

(A copy of the goals of WDT is available from the office or on the website)

38/2012 Westray-Papa Westray winter on-demand boat service: Fits with goals a), b), e) and f)

Recommendation – approval of a grant of £460 to support the maintenance of interisland ferry links that have social, educational, recreational and employment benefits for Westray.

Decision: The Board accepted the recommendation from PEG

44/2012 Gym equipment: Fits with goal a).

Recommendation – That the costs of a second hand recumbent bicycle be donated to OIC (£1370), with approval in principle for additional and realistic freight costs (to be confirmed).

With the condition – some community contribution from fundraising will need to be made.

Decision: The Board accepted the recommendation from PEG

15/2013 Small wheelchair accessible vehicle (community car): Fits with goals f) and g).

Recommendations – agreement that it is worth investigating further and this proposal is put to the community (with background information) for prioritisation at the next AGM

Decision: The Board accepted the recommendations from PEG

8/2013 Training bursaries: Fits with goal b).

Recommendation (5) – the PEG recommends that in order to move quickly to meet this need, WDT adopts the REWDT model initially (course fees only), monitors it closely and reviews after a year.

Decision: The Board did not accept the recommendation from PEG but instead decided on the following:

The scheme will allow up to £500 per person per year for course fees plus up to £25 per day travel and accommodation costs relating to the course (Orkney based study only).

Study based out with Orkney will be assessed under the small grants scheme.

An appropriate award letter and expenses claim form will be sent to successful applicants.

Recommendation (6) – The PEG recommends an initial budget for educational bursaries of £5000, with a cap of £500 per person.

Decision: The board accepted the recommendation of a budget of £5000 (but it will not be capped at £500 per person) and the Board will review again when this fund runs done.

Recommendation (7) – In promoting this project, the PEG also recommends that the public of Westray are made aware that if they have training needs or costs that fall outside this grant programme and have wider community benefit, they are still able to apply to the small grants programme for additional assistance.

Decision: The Board accepted the recommendation from PEG

17/2013: Costs of training or certification to meet regulatory requirements: Fits with goal f).

Recommendation – The PEG recommends that as a one-off, to address the change in regulatory requirements for council or other statutory body contracts and ensure that local businesses retain the ability to take on these contracts, approval be given for a grant of up to £500 per person for any local business on public procurement contractors lists required to put staff through additional courses.

Decision: DH declared an interest. The remainder of the Board accepted the recommendation but agreed to include in this scheme travel and accommodation costs.

14/2013 Stone chippings scheme: Fits with goals f) and d).

Recommendation – The PEG recommend that this scheme is supported in principle, with a budget cap (per person and total budget), subject to further communication with Westray Community Council as the lead organisation.

Decision: WCC will look into this scheme and apply to WDT for assistance.

16/2013 Reprinting of Westray Walks leaflet: Fits with goals a) and c).

Recommendation – Unanimous agreement of PEG that this project should be supported up to a maximum of £838.98, with a print run of 10,000 copies and costs shared (by negotiation) with Westray Community Council.

Decision: After some discussion, it was agreed that a draft of the leaflet be sent to PB as NFU representative before going to print.

Post meeting note: the figures for this project were entered incorrectly in the paperwork. The actual costs to be shared by WDT and WCC are £883.98.

Orkney Rocks event – a letter will be drafted, signed by DH and sent to the Tuesday singers stating that the event advertised does not meet with the conditions of the grant from WDT. **CC and DH**

4 CDO report: CCs report was circulated prior to the Board meeting.

CC gave a brief overview of her trip to Tiree and will submit a report to the Board on her return. **CC** CC will review the agendas of each Community Power Orkney meeting and decide who, if anyone, shall attend each meeting.

5 Office report: JRs report was circulated prior to the meeting with an additional page given to the Board at the meeting.

The Board agreed that WDT would use one page in the monthly 'What's On...' publication and the graph of turbine production will not be included.

6 Finance:

Gift Aid – WDT have received £195,000 in Gift aid from WRE Ltd for the period 2011-2012. PB explained that this figure would have been higher but WRE had been informed of an issue with a meter. Instead of a high voltage distribution charge, WRE were on a low voltage distribution charge which resulted in too much DUoS being charged to Smartest Energy. Therefore WRE had to repay £49,000 to Smartest.

DSL require a formal statement from the WDT Board that they are accepting of the valuation of the MFV New Venture. **The Board accepted the valuation.** CC is to ensure that all paperwork is in place.

7 Westray Processors:

DS has been liaising with committee of Westray Processors and has been talking to Scottish Hydro, C&F, Merriman's and the OIC planning department regarding the proposed wind turbine.

DS and DH had a meeting with John Drever, Stewart Crichton and Denise Spurgeon. They provided them with figures from the factory and WDT are now awaiting a response from WP on what they want from us.

WDT will send a letter to WP informing them that there is money available for a feasibility study and asking them to provide us with a brief for the study. CC will draft the letter and DS will sign it. **CC**

& DS

8 Quarry update:

CC has organised a meeting with Brian Archibald from OIC and Stephen Hagan to discuss the project.

9 WECIC:

The Board decided that projects will continue to be investigated through WDT until they are ready to begin trading, at which time they will be moved to WECIC.

WDT will issue the WECIC Board with a letter informing them that WECIC is to remain dormant until such time as WDT have projects to pass over to the company to allow it to begin trading. WDT will put this information in the 'What's on...' publication to inform the community of the situation.

10 AOCB:

Millers shop – through discussions with the current owner, it was suggested that WDT purchase the business to lease to an interested party and the current owner would lease the premises. It was agreed that the individual interested should approach WDT for assistance.

Request for information from Gareth Entwistle – CC will put him in touch with Community Power Orkney.

11 Date of next meeting: Monday 29th April 2013 at 7pm in the Haff Yok.

CC left the meeting at 10.30pm

12 WDT Board only – review of the meeting:

There were no decisions made in this part of the meeting.

With no further business to discuss, DH thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.40pm.