

*"Working with others to build a resilient, inclusive, enterprising community capable of dealing with ongoing change."*

## Approved Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015, 19.00-20.10**

**HDDT Office, Brander Building, The Square, Huntly**

**Present** Neil Angus (NA), Richard Hammock (RH, Chair), Fiona Manson (FM), Bruce Murray (BM), Iain Ralston (IR) Sharon Scapens (SS), Mary Scott (MS), Claudia Zeiske (CZ)

**In Attendance** Staff: Donald Boyd (DB), Debbie Haefner (DH, Minutes)

**Apologies** Les Allan (LA), Ronald Pittendrigh (RP), Stuart Thomson (ST)

Ref	Item	Action	By When
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>		
	RH welcomed all to the meeting and noted the apologies.		
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>		
	Approved without amendments		
<b>3</b>	<b>Finance Report – Donald</b>		
	In the absence of ST, but having reviewed it with him in advance, DB presented the financial report "highlights". <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Negative cashflow now at June 2016</li> <li>A wide range of funding avenues being explored, both loan and grants.</li> <li>Key focus is on bridging the gap of around £100k from June until March 17 when our renewable energy incomes comes on stream.</li> <li>DB to update at next Board meeting</li> </ul>	DB	16/02/16

<b>4</b>	<b>Greenmyres Energy – Donald &amp; Richard</b>		
	<p>Energy (wind / solar)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submitted supporting info for pre-accreditation for FiT</li> <li>Progressed various technical elements of wind project</li> <li>Engaged in discussion with SSE re new grid connection</li> <li>Progressed community shares (application for new BenCom)</li> <li>Comm Shares on hold until BenCom established</li> <li>Secured planning consent for 250kw turbine PV scheme</li> </ul> <p>The main issue has been the requirement to source a new grid connection point due to SSE re-costing the proposed route, as another project is not now proceeding. This means that our project will have to pick up the extra reinforcement costs for the whole route. SSE are proposing a connection through the existing substation at Dummuies wind farm, and while this is the most simple and direct route it will still require approval from both the landowner at Dummuies and the Dummuies Wind Farm owner. We are on a tight timescale to resolve this, given Christmas and New Year. This is the focus of DB's attention.</p>	DB	ASAP
<b>5</b>	<b>Greenmyres Non-Energy – Jill</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>JA and DB attended the Marr Are Committee meeting in Alford today and were delighted to announce that the planning application for the first phase building at Greenmyres has been approved. The Board expressed their gratitude to JA for her expertise, dedication and hard work in securing the planning consent, especially when she has been feeling unwell recently.</li> <li>The Board requested that the Business Plan be produced in parallel to the Building Warrant being prepared. It should now be easier to ask potential users to commit having obtained planning consent.</li> </ul>	JA/DB	16/02/16
<b>6</b>	<b>Development Manager's Update – Donald</b>		
	<p>DB presented an update on other key projects and developments within the Trust (see Appendix 1).</p> <p>He drew particular attention to the final slide of his presentation and a hand-out in support of his request to the Board to agree to his proposal re the Wheellemont wind turbine extension project. DB explained the proposal to the Board and, after an opportunity for Directors to discuss, RH asked the Board whether they agreed that we should go ahead with this? The Board unanimously agreed <b>YES</b> we should.</p> <p>DB to report this back to the developers.</p>	DB	ASAP
<b>7</b>	<b>Update from Working Groups</b>		
	<p><b>1. Greenmyres (Mary, Sharon)</b> Fishing competition went well. MS has been busy removing rushes and planning tree planting in the spring – Steve Brown to attend the next WG meeting to advise.</p> <p><b>2. Sports, (Health and Wellbeing?) (Bruce, Stuart)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> December to update the community on progress went very well.</li> <li>Nearly 80 responses to the facilities survey, which can be accessed at <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WZD8MNW">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WZD8MNW</a></li> <li>Potential access to a fund from Aberdeenshire Council – BR preparing</li> </ul>		

	<p>a business plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ladies sports day to be held in January after the success of this year's event</li> <li>PVG training to be arranged</li> <li>Small handbook / sports directory to be drafted and used as basis for updating website</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Promoting Huntly (Fiona, Claudia)</b>  No update  NA proposed joining the group and forming a working group to progress ideas for promoting Huntly and District. Richard asked him to draw up some terms of reference and objectives for the group in time for the February Board Meeting.  Huntly's Facebook page can be accessed here:  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/Huntly-Scotland-248096499676/?ref=hl">https://www.facebook.com/Huntly-Scotland-248096499676/?ref=hl</a></p> <p><b>4. Membership Development (Stuart, Sharon)</b>  New members up by approx 8, partly via fishing at Greenmyres</p>	NA	16/02/16
<b>8</b>	<b>Board / Governance Matters - Richard</b>		
	<p>Away Day to be re-arranged for weekend day in Feb / March 2017, assuming LA is well enough to participate. Group agreed to use the same structure and facilitators as proposed previously. DB to circulate some dates after liaison with DTAS as facilitators.</p>	DB	15/01/16
<b>9</b>	<b>AOCB</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RH has met with the business department at RGU to discuss a student placement opportunity looking at local broadband provision and what we as HDDT can do to help secure improved performance.</li> <li>DB thanked the Directors for sending through their VAT info quickly.</li> </ul>		
<b>10</b>	<b>Close of Meeting</b>		
	<p>RH thanked all for their attendance and their contributions to the Trust over the last year.  The meeting ended at 20.10 followed by the annual Directors and staff meal at Café India  Next meeting 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016</p>		

**Appendices:**

- Development Manager's update