

# Huntly and District Development Trust

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 SC 358964 • Registered Scottish Charity SC043353 SC 358964



*"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 16<sup>th</sup> August 2016 19.00-21.00**

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

**Present** Les Allan (LA, Chair), Bruce Murray (BM), Sharon Scapens (SS), Mary Scott (MS)

**In Attendance** Donald Boyd (DB) until 20.15, Debbie Haefner (DH, Minutes)

**Apologies** Neil Angus (NA), Ronald Pittendrigh (RP), Iain Ralston (IR), Stuart Thomson (ST), Claudia Zeiske (CZ)

Ref	Item	Action	By When
<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b>		
	LA welcomed all to the meeting and noted the apologies.		
<b>2</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>		
	Approved with one amendment – 5,000 extra people in the Square at Hairst should be 1,000 (due to Room to Run)		
<b>3</b>	<b>Finance Report</b>		
	In the absence of ST, DB presented the financial report.		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A loan of £25k has been secured from the Clashindarroch Wind Farm. DB to chase Foundation Scotland to find out when these funds will be released.</li> <li>Funds (£15,000) have been secured from Car Plus to fund Naomi's position for 2 days per week. Work is ongoing to find a funder for the remaining funds.</li> <li>Planned outgoings relating to Greenmyres non-wind include £100 for a demolition warrant, also the fee for the farm consultants work has yet to be received. Rental for the farmhouse and the grazing needs to be addressed asap.</li> <li>Sports Hub have no outgoings to report at this time, but have an income of £2,900 from Sports Scotland. The Room to Run costs have been covered through entrants fees.</li> <li>CCF income: £434 towards marketing the car club, also £3000 from NESTRANS.</li> <li>Other significant income is around the corner but we must explore other funding avenues as a priority to bridge the gap.</li> <li>DB is to work through the cashflow and annual accounts over the next few weeks.</li> </ul>	DB	DB

<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Greenmyres Renewable Energy –</b></p> <p>Richard provided an update via email on the project:</p> <p><b>1 Turbine:</b>  We receive detailed update reports from Locogen every two weeks. The project is on schedule with earthworks mostly complete. Major payments from our project funding include part payments for the turbine and SSE grid connection, repayment of the Cares pre-planning loan and the private loan which we had to use to get the NATS objection removed.</p> <p>We expect to be up and running and producing revenue by November this year.</p> <p>The project requires us to purchase the turbine in euros- nearly one million of them. We budgeted for an exchange rate of 1.25 This was considered a conservative rate pre-Brexit when the rate was at 1.33. However the value of the pound plummeted post Brexit and we eventually exchanged at 1.20. This created a £32k deficit which we had to make up with HDDT funds. In doing this we were mindful that RH had agreed a loan of £25k from the Clashindarroch Fund repayable over 5 years at 0 interest rate. HDDT is still awaiting this loan sum and it needs to be followed up.</p> <p>People may ask why we did not hedge the exchange rate. The answer is that whilst we discussed it with FX specialist companies and with the bank, the cost of hedging at £40k was more than we could afford.</p> <p><b>2 Share issue:</b>  We have only this week received legal advice about the options regarding the nature of GRE as an organisation and the tax implications of each option. The GRE board met meet on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> August to consider which is the best option in terms of timing, cost and HDDT control over the company.</p> <p>Until we have made this decision we do not know what we would be selling shares in. Whichever option we choose will take time to implement in terms of legal and regulatory requirements and at this stage it looks like we will not be in a position to offer shares until spring 2017.</p> <p>The GRE Board decided that a PLC was the best and more info on a strategy will be available soon.</p> <p>GRE Board asked the question to HDDT Board: What plan do we have to allow investors to withdraw shares at the 3 year period?</p> <p>Research what other companies have done. i.e. Boyndie</p>		
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>Update on Activities - Les</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeenshire Council and Transport Scotland have approached HDDT regarding the potential of a hydrogen plant at Greenmyres.</li> <li>• Locogen are prepared to do a feasibility study at Greenmyres for Solar PV.</li> </ul> <p><b>Room to Roam Green Travel Hub:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We were successful in being awarded £434 towards Car Club marketing and development. This will be spent on boosting the online profile of the Car Club and improving the vehicles visibility</li> </ul>		

	<p>through regular parking in the Square.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aberdeenshire Council will no longer be making use of the vehicles, so building up regular usage from residents of Huntly and beyond is key</li> <li>• Successfully had delivery of all E-Bikes and these are now available to hire from the HDDT offices, and we will get a storage facility built at the farm until alternatives can be made in Huntly.</li> <li>• We will submit a funding application to the ERDF LCTT for an active travel hub in Huntly. This fund is a pre-application so would allow us to carry out feasibility work to assess the viability of a Hub.</li> </ul>		
<b>6</b>	<b>Update from Working Groups</b>		
	<p><b>1. Greenmyres (Mary &amp; Sharon)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NA attended the last working group meeting (which was held onsite) to talk through landscaping plans for the pond. The group were all happy with the plans for an additional pond to be created at the marshy area. NA is now a member of the working group.</li> <li>• MS and Jill are meeting with the FCS to discuss the grant for the path leading into Gartly Moor.</li> <li>• Techfest are holding an event at the Hairst.</li> <li>• A Bioblitz event is planned for the evening of 16<sup>th</sup> September.</li> <li>• A demolition warrant is to be applied for to demolish the old buildings and make the site safer.</li> <li>• Problems have been discovered on the proposed shelter belt site due to water supply. A survey must be done, funds to be explored for this.</li> <li>• Question put to the Board – Can the new entrants grant be spent on Greenmyres? Board – yes, subject to payment of Greenmyres non-wind net costs already expended and paid by HDDT.</li> <li>• Fishing – SS explained the new community angling club which should hopefully bring a small income to the Trust and an increase in HDDT membership. BR noted that we must be careful not to upset other similar ventures in the local community.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Sports (Health and Wellbeing) (Bruce)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Room to Run – the 10k and 5k have both sold out. Still spaces available in the Wee Shortie. It is estimated that an extra 1,000 folk will be in or around Huntly Square at Hairst. T-shirts and medals are all ready for participants. Drone footage of the event will be done also.</li> <li>• Visuals for the physical sports hub are to be tweaked with the architect.</li> <li>• £2,900 has been awarded from Sports Scotland.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Promoting Huntly (Neil)</b> No update available.</p> <p><b>4. Membership Development (Sharon)</b> Automatic membership via the angling is hoped to increase membership.</p>	<b>J/MS</b>	

<b>7</b>	<b>Board / Governance</b>		
	<p><b>Directors</b>  RH, ST and CZ are all to stand down this year under the 5 year rule.  RP is not putting himself up for re-election.  Promotion must be done asap for new board members. Ad to be drafted for Huntly Express, LinkedIn, HBA, Social Media, KN etc.  Potential candidates to have an informal chat with are, Jamie Wilkinson, Steven Hutcheon and Dave Simpson.</p> <p><b>AGM</b>  The AGM is to be held on <b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September</b>. DB/DH Jane Dempster to have the accounts finalised by then. Annual review and newsletter also to be ready. A meeting with Directors to be held a week before the AGM to go over the proceedings. DH to arrange a Doodlepoll.</p>	<p><b>DB</b> <b>DB/BM</b></p> <p><b>DH</b></p>	<p><b>ASAP</b> <b>ASAP</b></p> <p><b>ASAP</b></p>
<b>8</b>	<b>AOCB</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deveron Arts project / Town Centre Regeneration – BM noted there is a confusion between what HDDT and Deveron Arts do, this needs to be addressed in the future.</li> <li>• A meeting is to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> September regarding regeneration with Janelle Clark – DB and NM to attend.</li> <li>• DTAS Conference is to be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> September – attendance from one or more HDDT Directors is required. DH to circulate event details.</li> <li>• MS has joined up HDDT as a member of the Woodland Trust</li> </ul>	<p><b>DB/NM</b></p> <p><b>DH</b></p>	<p><b>9<sup>th</sup> Sept</b></p> <p><b>ASAP</b></p>
<b>9</b>	<b>Close of Meeting</b>		
	LA closed the Board meeting at 21.00		