

Huntly & District Development Trust

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Huntly & District Development Trust (HDDT) Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 26th September 2017 at 19:00, Huntly Golf Club

Present:

Members (based on signed attendance):

Winnie Adam, Fiona Alderson, Sandra Brantingham, Eileen Cosgrove, Tony Gill, Andrew Goodall, Rita Haefner, Richard Hammock, Hazel McLaren, Avril Morrison, Anne Murray, Claire Newman, Annabel Pinker, Maureen Ross, Lynn Rutter, Pat Scott, Gordon Simpson, Moira Simpson, Sheena Sharp, Jackie Smith, Carole Small Paul Swarbrigg, Peter Smyth,

Apologies:

Members

Eleanor & Willie Anderson, Mary Burgerhout, Iain Catto, Mike Cowie, David Easton, Herbert & Sue Eppel, Steven Hutcheon, Jane Lockyer, Karin de Rijck, Ronald Pittendrigh, Margo & George Wordie, Ingrid Wylie

Present

HDDT Board

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

Apologies: Neil Angus, Alastair Ross, Jamie Wilkinson,

In attendance:

HDDT Staff

Jill Andrews (JA) Greenmyres Project Manager, Donald Boyd (DB) Development Manager, Dave Simpson (DS) Room to Roam Green Travel Project Manager, Debbie Haefner (DH, Minutes) Administration Manager

PART 1: AGM

1. Welcome, Apologies and Introduction

HDDT Chair Les Allan opened the Trust's eighth AGM, welcoming all those attending and noting that a list of apologies had been received.

2. Approval of Draft Minutes AGM 2016

The Draft Minutes of the previous AGM (20th September 2016) were approved by all in attendance. Proposed by Fiona Alderson, seconded by Mary Scott

3. Chair's Report / Annual Review

LA gave a review of the past year where significant goals had been achieved.

We have;

- Commissioned our community wind turbine at Greenmyres. After six years of effort everything finally came together on 24th November 2016.
- Seen commissioning of both Cairnborrow and Wheedlemont, two other renewable energy initiatives in which we have secured an interest for the trust and the area immediately around the turbines.
- Continued work to develop Greenmyres farm. A key milestone was securing planning consent to create a footpath from Greenmyres into the Forestry Commission managed Gartly Moor.
- Started a new phase of our Climate Challenge Fund supported Room to Roam Green Travel Hub project to promote green and active travel in Huntly and district. Highlights included continuation of the community Car Club, acquisition of more e-bikes, running the Huntly Room to Ride Audax event and promotion of cycle guides to routes in Huntly and district.
- Completed phase 2 of our two-year commonwealth Games Legacy 2014 project to review and develop local sporting facilities. This involved the translation of the needs and wants expressed by our community into an initial design concept. In addition, our Huntly Sports Hub group organised another "Taster Day" to encourage ladies (back) into sport and together with our partners at Networks of Wellbeing organised the Room to Run fun run event.
- Participated in the Huntly Town Team, a new multi-stakeholder group pulled together by Aberdeenshire Council to examine the issues affecting Huntly and identifying ways to address them collectively.
- Continued our liaisons with the James Hutton institute to distil learning from our activities.
- Continued to administer the AB54 Health and Wellbeing Fund on behalf of the AB54 Health and Wellbeing Group.
- Continued running the Huntly community Facebook page and Twitter feed to help organisations and individuals promote activities and events.
- Maintained a healthy Board/Trustee membership and undertook a Board Away Day.
- Produced 2 newsletters and continued our monthly column in the Huntly Express.
- Increased our membership by 21 (5%) to 440.

LA thanked the Directors, staff and volunteers for all their hard work over the past year.

Jill Andrews, Project Manager Greenmyres explained the current situation with Greenmyres. Main points:

- Secured building warrant to sustainably demolish many of the ruinous outbuildings in the existing farmyard.
- After a member alerted us to this research project we took part in a scientific trail growing daffodils at high altitude (300m above sea level) in conjunction with the Harper Adams University, the daffodils release a chemical called galantamine which may help with Alzheimer's research. We are currently awaiting the results and next stages.
- Secured planning consent for an eco-bothy on site. This will be built using recycled pallets.
- The SRDP are currently assessing our funding bid for additional foot and cycle paths around Greenmyres, including a link to Forestry Commission managed Gartly Moor and we are working with nearby landowners to connect Bahill – Cothill – Greenmyres.
- Hosted a Hairst celebration to mark the 3rd year of ownership of the site and the opening of the wind turbine.

Dave Simpson, Project Manager Room to Roam Green Travel Hub introduced himself and gave an update on the project.

- The Car Club membership is on the rise, we have an addition to the fleet with an electric van.
- Huntly's 3rd Audax took place with 97 cyclists taking part in the event. E-bikes are available to hire from the office.
- We have a total of 10 e-bikes available for hire.

Bruce Murray gave an update on the Sports Hub project. Phase 2 of the physical sports hub feasibility is now underway and is being carried out by AJ Consultants. A ladies taster day was held back in January and once again proved extremely popular. A very successful Room to Run, organised with partners NoW and Huntly Rinnin' Quines and Loons, had full capacity of entrants completing a 5k, 10k and kids race. This event was ran on the Hairst Saturday and had approx 1,000 extra folk shopping in the town centre during the course of the morning.

Avril Morrison and Andrew Goodall (CLD) designed an infographic of HDDT's projects. It is a great visual tool and the board thanked them for their work on designing this.

4. Greenmyres Renewable Energy (GRE)

Richard Hammock, chair of GRE gave an update of the shares issue explaining that it will no longer be going ahead. A solar PV feasibility study is being conducted.

5. Financial Report:

DB presented the financial report and draft accounts in the absence of a Finance director. The full accounts can be found on the HDDT website.

6. Election of Directors

DB explained the election process.

- Standing down under Article 62(b) and seeking re-election is Director Neil Angus. This was proposed by Richard Hammock and seconded Mary Scott.
- Standing down under Article 66 are Directors Les Allan and Alastair Ross. Both were re-elected at the Board meeting following on from this AGM.
- Standing down and not seeking re-election is Director Sharon Scapens. Les Allan thanks Sharon for her time and the Board and is happy that she will continue to oversee the community angling at Greenmyres.
- Mary Scott nominated Carole Small to join the Board. This was seconded by Fiona Alderson.

New Directors are to be sought, someone with a finance background in particular.

7. Members Questions

Paul Swarbrigg queried access to Greenmyres and in particular the dogs.

JA explained that access is open to anyone at all times, usual countryside rules apply re opening and closing of gates as there are animals grazing in the fields. The farmhouse tenants do have a lot of dogs, they are mostly kept under control however should any issues arise please let us know so we can action accordingly.

Jackie Smith queried the lack of communication regarding the sports hub and proposals at Greenmyres (for use by the Rifle Club). BM to put out a detailed update on the sports hub, and LA explained that the future of Greenmyres has not been established yet, however a meeting solely to discuss this will take place later this year. Until a first building / bothy is onsite nothing can really happen.

Gordon Simpson mentioned an old road that may be resurrected as a means to walk/cycle to Greenmyres. DB to discuss this with him in more detail.

8. AOCB

None

9. Close of meeting

There being no further business, LA thanked Allan Smith of Huntly Golf Club for the refreshments and closed the AGM at 20.15.

Part 2: Table Talk

10. Presentation by James Hutton Institute on their work to date with HDDT

Annabel Pinker of James Hutton Institute presented an update on the TESS project (Towards European Societal Sustainability) which is a European research project exploring the role of community based initiatives (CBI's) in creating a sustainable, low carbon Europe. Surveys have been done in Finland, Germany, Italy, Romania, Spain and Scotland. Annabel plans to provide the outputs specific to HDDT in the near future.

11. Open discussion on Future Priorities

The assembled company went into small groups and wrote down their ideas under the main headings of:

- Delivering an asset-based economic development plan to support employment and employability.
- Supporting town centre regeneration to create a vibrant, green and welcoming hub.
- Facilitated development of a healthier, more confident community able to access high facilities and the natural environment.
- Improved local partnership working co-ordination, and play a key role in representing the town's interests.
- Developed HDDT as an organisation to meet its evolving needs.

10. Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 21.15.