

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Helmsdale and District Development Trust
held on the 18th June 2015
in the Community Centre

LDO REPORT – Thursday 18th June 2015

HOUSING

- Agreed at previous meeting to support this. Approach made to Albyn, no response as yet, suggest we go ahead and at least get the first years' worth of plants and flowers organised, whilst the season is young. I suggest that we issue a cheque for £60, paid direct to: Scotsburn Garden Centre. LHFSS will then go down and choose the most suitable items and furnish the Planters with these.

This was unanimously agreed by the Board

FILLING STATION

- Meeting with the DT on Monday afternoon, amended drawings after comment from the Petroleum Officer in preparation for submission to planning. *Drawings will be passed to Petroleum Officer for comment prior to submission.*
- QS has started the detailed elemental costings
- Engineers have now confirmed the necessary standards for wall and ground construction materials – non permeable, 2m high x 8m wide, around an offset filling point/manifold.
- Further meeting next week to finalise all items.

BROADBAND

- Farrpoint Atkins (Broadband Consultants) are pushing the telecom operators on feasibility/leasing costs for hosting the required equipment on existing towers and for Internet backhaul. The plan is to have a baseline design and budgetary costs documented by Friday 19th June by Farrpoint.
- Farrpoint will then meet with HDDT and CBS on next steps to potentially reduce ongoing annual revenue costs, one of which will be looking at the feasibility of building new mast structures on existing sites (establishing this however could take some time). As such we haven't formally engaged with landowners as yet.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Navidale

- We have received a copy of the proposed Heads of Terms from Windflow Hammer. I have had these checked over from our Solicitors, who have confirmed that these are fairly standard, and that **NO Legal or Financial Liability** is placed upon HDDT.
- We had also been requested to act as the 'Agent' for the project. However, we have made quite clear, that it has never at any time been our intention to become the Agent, and we have therefore declined to undertake this function.
- During the planning process we acknowledge the need to inform the community and explain our reasons for this potential investment.

West Garty

- The Highland Council have used their delegated powers and refused the application for the wind farm at West Garty. It is now up to Muirden Energy, to instigate an appeal or PLI if they so wish.

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SUTHERLAND ESTATES

RW explained the background to DM.

PH updated the Board on the content and outcomes of the recent meeting between SE and the steering group (PH, RE, GM, RW). Documentation attached.

DIRECTORS

RW informed the Board of Lucy Frasers resignation and read out the letter and her reply. She continued by saying that, due to the resignations of both LF and RS, there were now vacancies on the Board. PH advised that having previously canvassed the Board, he had invited Alan MacRae to be a Director. PH indicated that as AM had accepted this invitation, he should receive an induction session on background information on the Trust (Mem & Arts, Business Plan etc) plus information on the duties and responsibilities incumbent upon a Director and be invited to the next meeting. PH would undertake this process as soon as possible. This course of action was unanimously agreed. RW then asked the Board to give continued consideration to identifying future candidates, for ongoing discussion.

ACOB

PH said that the Community Empowerment bill had been published necessitating some procedural changes to our Mem and Arts. He continued by saying the he would wait for instructions from DTA before effective the changes.

Business Development Plan

PH said that he would send out the plan matrix to all directors, enabling them to make observations for each item (Long, Short or Medium term) for updating before the next meeting.

Newsletter

RW said that this was slightly behind schedule owing to pressure of work and suggested that it be left until after the open meeting (re Sutherland Estates offer) in July. It was suggested that the findings of this meeting could then be included, and an updated newsletter be ready for general distribution in time for the Highland Games.

CAM Report

PH said that this would required to be prepared before he goes on holiday. KS agreed to undertake this.

HC Cllr Report - Service Points

DM reported that the Helmsdale Service Point was scheduled for closure. She continued by saying that the report which she had read, on Equality, Rural and Impact Assessment (on which the decision was based) was inaccurate and she had asked questions. A general discussion followed on how the closures would affect the staff and Public.

Budgets

DM said that the budget deficit had been revised from £13.2 million, to be saved over three years , to £46.2m and that this resulted directly from changes in the Scottish Government Grant.

RW asked if there was anything further, as there were nothing further she reminded everyone of the date of the next meeting (18/07/15), thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 2020.