Minutes

Meeting of Point and Sandwick Development Trust

10 June 2010

7pm Aird Hall

Present: Donald John MacSween, Donald Macdonald, Scott Conner, George K Macdonald, Kenny D Macdonald, Calum MacDonald. Apologies: AJ Murray, Duncan Mackay, Liz Chaplin, Andrew Mackenzie, Willie MacFarlane, Catherine Mackinnon.

1. **Minutes and Matters Arising.**

Item 1a: CM reported that the Training form feedback had been given to Wendy Reid of Development Trust Association.

Item 2b: Director's insurance had not yet been purchased as the new bank account was still being set up.

Item 4: Jackie Campbell of Harper Macleod had agreed a fee of £500 to answer specific questions about the landlord's right to resume land for development and it was agreed that this was reasonable.

Item 7: The registration of Directors was still not completed with four outstanding.

2. **Planning Conditions Update.**

CM reported that he had continued to chase HIAL who had now said that advance payment of the costs of changing the airport regulations was not longer necessary, and that the planning objection was withdrawn. However, this had to be done through direct communication between the Council and HIAL and as of today this still had not happened. ACTION:CM

3. **Big Lottery and Grid Connection.**

The lobbying agreed at the last meeting had been carried out, in cooperation with other members of EcoHeb and with Community Energy Scotland. SSE have been harassed, a

meeting requested with the new Sec of State, senior members of National Grid lobbied, and Tavish Scott MSP briefed in order to secure the meeting with the SoS. As a result of the lobbying, SSE have begun to change their position again, this time in a more positive direction.

Thus, SSE have now issued firm offers to connect by end 2011 to 3 companies: Horshader, Tolsta and West Harris. They expect to issue a firm offer to Galson in September, which is also expected to be for end 2011.

The big projects - Point and Uist - are also being considered for connection through 'connect and mange'. This requires that the current queue of projects to be connected to the grid between W Isles and Fort Augustus be sifted so that projects that do not have planning consent can be removed from the queue, allowing Point and Uist to move up.
The projects likely to be removed are Bernera (5MW) and Calum Macmillan in Uist (10MW). The npower wave project (4MW) in Lewis may also be removed or, if it stays in the queue, it is unlikely to need all of its 4MW, so 2-3MW from that can be re-allocated as well. That comes to a total of 17 or 18 MW that can be freed up.
That process is likely to take till September or maybe later. If this sifting proves insufficient to get Point and Uist connected by end 2011, then we will want SSE to look at constraining the output of 2 large wind farms on Skye: Ben Atikill and Edinbane. This means constraining the output from Edinbane and Ben Atikill on those occasions when all the generators are working to maximum output and there is a danger of system overload. These occasions are likely to be infrequent and thus should not add to much cost to the management of the grid. Moreover, the need for such an constraints would cease when the big sub-sea cable is completed in 2013 or 2014. Constrained access would therefore be for a temporary period only.
SSE may already be looking at this last option as part of connect-and-manage, but as they haven't confirmed this as yet, we need to keep the lobbying pressure on them to make sure that they deliver this solution as necessary. ACTION: CM

4. **SY TRUST LEASE.**

The Factor had asked for meeting dates in May and June and CM had told him that any date in those months was suitable. No word had been heard since then. Our wait for a meeting with the landlord is now extending into its 12th month!

5. **Bank Account and Finance.**

The bank account had been transferred to the Royal Bank as agreed at the last meeting. RBS required a number Directors to attend in person with ID to activate the account and the following Directors present agreed to do this: ACTION: DM, SC, GKM, KDM plus any other directors who can do this.

6. **Membership Database.**

DM reported that membership was now up to around 120, and Kenny Dan and George Ken were thanked for their recent efforts in this regard. Scott reported that a Dell computer and appropriate software had been recommended for the membership list. He would resend the information to CM. Also, Diane Murray had agreed to help organise the stand at the Point Show and it was agreed that that would be used to recruit new members. ACTION: SC, DJ, CM, Diane Murray.

7. **Registration of Directors.**

The Directors who had resigned over the past 12 months had been formally notified to Roddy Cunningham. The Directors now needing to go to Roddy Cunningham's to formally register are the following: Duncan Mackay, Nan Morrison, Murdo Livingstone and Angus MacCormack.

8. **AOB.**

Donnie reported on a presentation he had given on PSDT at the recent AGM of the Scottish Crofting Foundation which had aroused a great deal of enthusiasm and interest.

The Committee were also very pleased to hear that Angus MacCormack had attended the last set of Council meetings by video-conference. They wished him a speedy recovery and looked forward to his interventions at future PSDT meetings.
