POINT AND SANDWICK TRUST

Minute of Meeting of Point and Sandwick Trust Board of Directors held in Café Roo,on Tuesday 18 November 2014 at 6.30 pm.

PRESENT: Angus McCormack (Chair)
Duncan Mackay (V-Chair)
Donald Taylor
Eddie MacGregor
Donald Macritchie
Kenny D Macdonald
Liz Chaplain
Andrew Mackenzie
Matt Bruce
Jenny Pain
Donald John Macsween
Calum Macdonald

APOLOGIES: Nan Morrison
Agnes Munro

MINUTES

The Minute of Meeting of 24 October 2014 was approved with the following amendments:

The TIG presentation was given by Stuart Wilson, not Macdonald .

Landscaping be removed from the list of TIG's work.

Defnition of fuel poverty is 10% and extreme fuel poverty 20%

PRESENTATION BY FOYER

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to Tony Pendle and Rebecca Mahoney, Western Isles Foyer representatives who gave a detailed presentation on the current work being undertaken by the Foyer project and their stated aims and objectives for the future.

Established in 2003, Foyer works with service users to support them in securing accommodation and provide information and guidance as well as access to education, training and employment to assist users in moving on to successfully sustain their own tenancies and to help them re-integrate into independent living.

The presentation outlined the vital work being done by the Project such as the Lifeshaper Programme which while enhancing individual independent living skills also offers users the chance to gain recognised vocational qualifications and complete work based placements with local employment. The other main strands to

the services are the Drop-in-Centre, Homeless Resources, accommodation and housing support and it was indicated that it was hoped to continue and strengthen the work being done to assist young people in the Western Isles.

The Chairman thanked Tony and Rebecca for their presentation and they then left the meeting.

PRESENTATION BY PENTLAND ROAD WIND FARM

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to Peter Crone and Michael Huntingford, representatives of the Pentland Road Wind Farm Project. The Chairman then indicated that it was proposed to give Board members an opportunity to put any questions they had to the representatives of the Pentland Road Wind Farm after the presentation but that due to a full agenda it was proposed that the PST would be discussing its own position at a meeting of the Board to be convened early in the New Year.

Peter Crone explained the background to the situation and indicated that currently they were looking for an agreement as soon as possible with Point and Sandwick Trust regarding the ongoing maintenance in respect of the track built by Pentland Road Wind Farm. He pointed out that it was important to have an agreement in place to cover responsibility for damage to the road and the sharing of costs for upkeep. He explained that from this point on they were quite happy to go through the necessary processes and to co-operate with PST in order to reach an agreement as quickly as possible.

Peter Crone went on to explain about the difficulties being experienced with SSE over the last year. He stated that SSE had only provided a six days a week service from SSE with one day a week being unconnected to their system. He further indicated that there were a total of 58 days of disconnection in the first year, some which were also down to the national grid, vehicle transmission on the mainland and other work causing delays for days and sometimes several weeks. Ideally they would like to see that work being done in the summer when less output would be used. He further indicated that notice had been given about a further shutdown in December for essential improvements across the islands so that the expectation was that things would not improve in the near future and given that both PST and PRWF had a shared interest it would be sensible to consider a joint approach to SSE regarding this difficulty.

The Chairman thanked the Peter Crone and Michael Huntingford for their presentation and asked for further clarification regarding what the PRWF actually sought from PST.

Peter Crone indicated that the priority was for an agreement to be entered into regarding the road which PRWF had built. They would seek to minimise lawyer involvement and would make every effort to speed up the process. He also indicated that they were keen to make a joint approach between PRWF and PST to SSE regarding the difficulties currently being experienced with shutdowns.

The Chairman gave Board members an opportunity to ask questions of the PRWF representatives. He further indicated that they would be in touch with them early in the New Year once the Board had had an opportunity to consider these matters.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for their presentation. The Pentland Road Wind Farm representatives thanked the Board for the opportunity to talk to them and left the meeting.

The Chairman summarised the outcome of the presentation as follows:

(1) There would now appear to be no demand for a sum of money;
(2) PRWF are seeking a maintenance agreement with PST as soon as possible;
(3) PRWF are looking for PST's co-operation in their dealings with SSE and Enercon in future;
(4) PST would meet early in the New Years to discuss the issues raised;
(5) PST are awaiting documentation from PRWF in response to HJB Gately's documents to them.

FINANCE AND FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS WITH MANN JUDD

The Chairman reported that there was a slightly different arrangement with Mann Judd regarding finances and invited Calum and Donald John to take the Board through this as far as their separate areas of work were concerned.

Calum Macdonald indicated that he had circulated papers and explained to the Board the process now in place for settling various bills and invoices through Mann Judd.

POINT AND SANDWICK POWER REPORT

Calum Macdonald presented a detailed statement of the Trust's current financial position.

It was agreed that this item would be on the agenda of the next meeting.

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

(a) Memorandum and Articles

The General Manager reported that he had taken up the offer from Catriona at HJB Gately regarding the incorporation of all the changes into the Memorandum and Articles of Association and liaison with all the stakeholders to ensure that all changes were acceptable to them.

Once this process has been completed the amended Memorandum and Articles of Association will be circulated to the Board.

The General Manager further indicated that it would be prudent to seek a second opinion on the proposed Board recruitment process and double check with Catriona on the matter of recruitment proposal being accepted by OSCR.

A further report will be submitted to the Board in due course.

(b) Draft Application Forms/Guidance Notes

The General Manager indicated that he had circulated Draft Grant Guidance Notes, Terms and Conditions and Draft Applications Forms for three levels of grant.

It was agreed that comments be submitted to the General Manager by the end of November and a progress report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Board.

(c) Website and Social Media

The General Manager indicated that work was ongoing on the PST website with a view to it being updated. He further indicated that the Facebook site was proving to be popular with regular updates on site progress being provided.

It was agreed that further work would be undertaken to update the website with Board meeting minutes being incorporated on the website in due course.

(d) Western Isles Development Trust

The General Manager indicated that he had submitted his name to join the Western Isles Development Trust as an individual and that he would be following up this process.

7 PROPOSED COMMUNITY ENERGY HEBRIDES

The Chairman detailed a proposal from Community Energy Scotland that PST join with other community windfarms in becoming an organisation. He pointed out that whilst there were some merits to the proposal one of the things that concerned them was that it was felt it was forming an organisation that would then represent PST and it was felt that it was preferable for PST to have its own autonomy. He stated that looking forward whilst there was no objection to co-operating with those organisations in areas of mutual benefit, the feeling at the present time was this was not the best way to go about doing it.

Calum Macdonald gave further background to the proposal from Community Energy Scotland as the key representatives of community energy groups in various parts of Scotland. He further indicated that their AGM was in Edinburgh the following week and it was his intention to attend.

After discussion, it was agreed that before reaching a conclusion a representative of Community Energy Scotland would be invited to a Board meeting to discuss this issue further.

8 AOB

The General Manager indicated that he circulated by email an application from Coisir Og an Rubha and asked for this application to be considered at the end of the meeting. He stated that the applicants had agreed to be "guinea pigs" for the first ever live application and confirmed that they meet all the funding criteria as set out in the draft application form.

After discussion, it was agreed that this application be approved in principle as a test case and depending on the outcome of the other two funding bids and that Coisir Og an Rubha be invited to give a presentation on their application to the next meeting of the Board.

The General Manager indicated that thus far he had received enquiries for grants as follows:

Young at Heart Tiumpan
Cairdean Og Allt nan Gall
Lewis Pipe Band
Crossroads
Samaritans
Advocacy Western Isles
Western Isles Association for Mental Health

It was confirmed that all enquirers had been informed that it would be late next year before PST would be in a position to accept applications.

9 DATE IF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Board would take place on **Tuesday 16 December 2014** at Café Roo.