Minute of Meeting of Board of Directors of **Point and Sandwick Trust** held in the PST Office on **Tuesday 6 February 2018 at 6.30 pm**.

PRESENT: Angus McCormack (Chair)
Duncan Mackay
Liz Chaplin
Agnes Munro
Kenny Dan Macdonald
Dan Maclennan
Eddie Macgregor
Matt Bruce
Andrew Mackenzie
Norman Mackenzie
Donald John MacSween
Calum Macdonald

APOLOGIES Duncan Mackay
Sonja Macleod
Alison Carty

1 **WELCOME**

The Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting including Annabel Pinker, Social Anthropologist with the Hutton Institute, Dundee. Permission was sought and granted from those present for her to record the meeting to assist with her notes.

2 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

There were none declared at this point although the Chairman indicated that declarations could be made at any time during the meeting.

3 **MINUTES**

(a) The Minute of Meeting of 21 November 2017 was **approved.**
(b) The Minute of Meeting of the Grants Sub-Committee of 2 February 2018 was **approved.**

4 **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

5 **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

(1) <u>Finance</u>

The balance in the Trust Current Account is c £60k.

All the grant payments approved by the Grants Sub Committee on 2 February 2018, amounting to £15,600, are to be deducted from this balance, and no other invoices are outstanding.

Financial statements from John Moffatt, Accountant, were circulated to Board Members for their information.

(2) Grants: Terms and Conditions

The current Grant Terms and Conditions require minor revision to underline the requirement for grant recipients to acknowledge the grant from PST on their websites, social media accounts, promotional material and letterheads, as appropriate.

There is also a need to remind all applicants that canvassing of Board members will automatically disqualify their applications from consideration.

It was agreed that these revisions be included in the Grant Terms and Conditions and that a revised document be circulated for information in due course.

(3) Grants Sub-Committee

The Grants Sub-Committee minute was **approved.**

(4) Development Consultants Progress Report

Tony Robson and Alasdair Nicholson provided details of their part-time development support to PST's recent AGM . This outlined potential projects which the trust has prioritised in its development strategy, and to respond to emerging demands through advice on funding and other matters and the referral process which has seen around 20 local organisations receive support and the establishment of a number of new organisations in the area. The type of support at initial stages includes:-

- Site visits to potential projects
- Formal meetings with community groups
- Investigation of funding from external agencies
- Tendering of advice to groups
- Preparation of new company constitutions
- Funding applications to Big Lottery for some feasibility work
- Early discussion on other potential development possibilities.

In January, the consultants met up with Point and Sandwick Coastal Community Path to review progress. It was noted that there was little progress with the landowners on Iolaire section since the previous meeting. Planning permission was stilll pending however landlord consent was a significant hurdle with respect to a Leader application.

Advice was given to concentrate on the Eye chapel section, which had permission. The timescales were tight as Leader had to be lodged by February 14. The contractor costs would need revision and match funding letter revised. PSCCP were advised on furthering a meeting with the Stornoway Trust ASP in order to encourage agreement between Stornoway Trust and PST.

Following that meeting, it was confirmed that planning consent for both sections were agreed. In addition, the Aoidh Trust had written to Stornoway Trust to encourage a joint position. Tony had in the meantime got a re-cost of the reduced works of £104,152 inc VAT. Alasdair met up with Matt Bruce on 25th January to discuss funding.

Earlier, on 22nd January, a funding workshop session was held in PST offices for several local organisations to help progress plans. This included one to one individual meetings with the following:-

Plasterfield Recreation Association: The meeting followed up on advice given to the group on applying for landfill funds to acquire a container as a first step in their plans for storage requirements in the area they are leasing from the Stornoway Trust. They were advised to seek a letter of conform from the factor as evidence of the lease which was awaited from the Trusts legal agent. An application to the lottery was also discussed to help with community engagement and appraisal and the group confirmed they sought help with this.

Tiumpanhead Community Association: Following the AGM of the group they confirmed they were still seeking prices for kitchen updates. The group said they needed help in pursuing and developing plans for the centre in Aird. They would like to acquire a strip of ground currently outwith the parameters of their existing site (owned by Stornoway Trust). They would arrange for site plans to be copied for consultants as well as an earlier community exercise from 2014. It was agreed to hold a site visit once the plans were provided. It was confirmed to the group that any work would be owned and controlled by the organisation.

Portnaguran Amenity Fund: Alasdair Nicholson had met the group in Portnaguran in December and saw the works the Amenity Group had undertaken around the slipway. The group re-iterated the lack of focal point apart from the harbour and limited facilities in the vicinity.

The group had requested a review of their constitution in order to become a charity and a community appraisal to help identify and scope out a local action plan. Some of this was already in hand. The group were advised what lottery would require in terms of past financial information.

Upper Bayble Community Trust: There was some discussion what they required to submit to Companies House for retiral of directors and appointment of new directors. There was some discussion on a historic memorial in the area. Tony had some discussion regarding a landfill bid for Bayble Pier.

Roots for Low Impact Living: Some additional e- mail advice was tendered to Rebecca Smith on setting up an interim committee for her group and opening a bank account.

The Consultants' report was noted.

(5) Croft Woodlands Project

A progress report from the Croft Woodlands Officer was circulated and **noted**.

(6) LED Community Report

A progress report from the LED Project Manager was circulated and **noted**.

(7) Heb Alpha Report

Heb Alpha's Annual Report has been circulated to members for information and noting. The report gives details of the work undertaken from January to December 2017. It provides some sample case work and how the PST funding contributed to this work.

(8) Western Isles Association for Mental Health Report

WIAMH's Annual Report has been circulated to members for information and noting. The report gives details of the work undertaken throughout 2017 and how the PST funding was utilised to achieve their goals.

(9) Western Isles Foyer Annual Report

Foyer's Report has been circulated to members for information and noting. This report gives details of the work undertaken and how the funding from Point and Sandwick Trust was utilised by Foyer.

(10) Marketing, Social Media, and Promotion

The first edition of the PST Newsletter has been circulated to Board Members and community membership.

(11) Student Support Proposal UHI Lews Castle College

OBJECTIVE

It is often claimed that the installation of wind turbines on peatland results in negligible environmental benefit because the carbon savings associated with clean wind energy are cancelled out by the CO2 emissions from the disturbed peat.

However, a crude calculation suggests that the impact is actually small with the emissions cancelled out within 6 months of operation. The objective is to demonstrate that this is correct and that installing wind turbines is not environmentally harmful.

The proposal is to analyse a 200 m x 200 m area of peatland near the existing Beinn Ghrideag turbines in detail, measuring peat depth and flora, and estimating the quantity of stored carbon and the annual accumulation. The effect of disturbance will be analysed with reference to existing research and the overall carbon dioxide emissions calculated.

OUTPUT

The results will be published in an appropriate research journal with the support of Point and Sandwick Power acknowledged.

References:

Yuxuan Wang, Tianye Sun, Life cycle assessment of CO2 emissions from wind power plants: Methodology and case studies, Renewable Energy, Volume 43, 2012, Pages 30-36

Jo Smith, Dali Rani Nayak, Pete Smith, Wind farms on undegraded peatlands are unlikely to reduce future carbon emissions, Energy Policy, Volume 66, 2014, Pages 585-591

L.F. Weissert, M. Disney, Carbon storage in peatlands: A case study on the Isle of Man, Geoderma, Volumes 204–205, 2013, Pages 111-119

Shifeng Wang, Sicong Wang, Impacts of wind energy on environment: A review, Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews, Volume 49, 2015, Pages 437-443
Joseph Wheatley, Quantifying CO2 savings from wind power, Energy Policy, Volume 63, 2013, Pages 89-96
N.J. Ostle, P.E. Levy, C.D. Evans, P. Smith, UK land use and soil carbon sequestration, Land Use Policy, Volume 26, Supplement 1, 2009, Pages S274-S283
K.J. Lees, T. Quaife, R.R.E. Artz, M. Khomik, J.M. Clark, Potential for using remote sensing to estimate carbon fluxes across northern peatlands – A review, Science of The Total Environment, Volume 615, 2018, Pages 857-874

RESEARCH STUDENT
Katharina Lutz, Masters Biology student, University of Ulm, Germany. Visiting for 3 months from July 2018 – October 2018. Supervised by Alasdair Macleod, Engineering, Lews Castle College-UHI.

FUNDING REQUEST
Funding to cover living costs at the Bridge Centre, Stornoway for three months is requested (£1,500).

It was agreed to approve funding to cover living costs for the Research Student at the Bridge Centre, Stornoway.

(12) Stornoway Trust Update

The General Manager indicated that he had correspondence with Stornoway Trust about the payment due to the Stornoway Trust Development Trust, and that a hand delivered letter had been given to the Factor outlining the Lease Back Conditions from the PST perspective.

The General Manager met with the Factor last Thursday, and he agreed to arrange a meeting for 4pm on the 6th of February, immediately before the PST Board meeting on 6 February, between members of Stornoway Trust and the PST Board.

The General Manager indicated that he had received notification from the Factor late on Monday 5 February to say that he had been not been able to get a sufficient number of members to attend this meeting.

It was noted that the Factor would get back to PST with an alternative suitable date.

(13) Proposal from Board Member

The General Manager received a development proposal from Board member Kenny Dan Macdonald, copied below.

“Andrew's points on "away-day" were good,but who would want to visit Point as Point suffers more than most with the blight of scrap cars piling up daily.The landscape and environment are being destroyed and it is also having a detrimental effect on residents who are too afraid to speak up.

Surely as a high profile and respectable company we could work with others on this problem by creating much needed work for a number of people.A suitable site and the proper equipment would go a long way in establishing a starting point.

The engines could be removed from vehicles and stripped down part by part,then shelved and sold on as could all other parts of each car.The shell of each car could be crushed and sold on as scrap.

I fully realise that there is a lot of hard work involved in this proposal but can also see an opportunity to help create employment and to possibly put an end to a very long running problem."

It was agreed that this proposal be passed for consideration to the Future Projects Sub Committee chaired by Andrew Mackenzie.

(14)Request for Consultant Support

A request for PST Consultant Support was received from Urras Storas an Rubha, who are revising the plans for refurbishing the Old Knock School to a more achievable level in preparation for a further bid for Big lottery funding.

It was agreed that the request for consultant support be granted to Urras Storas an Rubha for revision of plans for refurbishment of Old Knock School.

6 UPDATE REPORT FROM CALUM MACDONALD

(1) Output Update

The new financial year for the wind farm started in December. The P50 output was supposed to be 6,700 hours. The actual output was 6,178 hours but when constrained lost output is added the output for which we will get paid is probably nearer 6,400 hours as we suffered a very big constraint in December. The main cause of this roughly 5% shortfall was low wind speed – down by over 20% in both months compared to P50.

(2) Income Update

The good news is that prices were higher than last year in both months.

(**3) Compensation Claims**

As reported last time, the National Grid accepted the claim but the money is yet to arrive in our account.

(4) Enercon Variation Costs Claim

No further news from Enercon about the remaining, disputed amount.

(5) Rates

No update to report.

6) Other Community Wind Farm Projects/

The Commission has indicated that they want to wait till the outcome of the Section 19A Court case before deciding the Section 50B applications.

The Land Court meanwhile has turned down our request to sist and said that they will hear the S19A case. They have explained their decision by saying that we can make all the socio-economic arguments for the S50B applications in the S19A case. LWP have recently applied to the Court to blacklist all the objectors who are not themselves crofters in the townships grazings. We will respond to this by arguing that the crofting community includes all who live in the townships, including the households of shareholders. We will be contacting all those who have been blacklisted to give them draft responses they can use.

7) Hydrogen Ship

All the contractual paperwork to commence the study was done in December and the team have been meeting and exchanging information. We are supposed to deliver the report in June. I have drafted a press release to go out at the end of this week or the start of next.

8) Wood Group

We have employed Orkney-based Aquaterra to manage the planning application work for the new wind farms, with work on the ground being done by Western Isles Environmental Services. It is proving difficult to get some of the work already done from Wood in competent form.

9) Financial Model and Dividend

Santander approved a distribution of £400,000 following the submission of the year end Financial Model in December. If we hit our targets for the next 6 months, there should be another £250,000 distributed in June.
I recommend that £250,000 be gift-aided to the Trust at this point with £150,000 being retained until we see how the costs of the Court case and wind farm development work pan out between now and June. We will also need to spend £71,000 for the hydrogen study work between now and June but we will get that full reimbursed by Scottish Government in June.
Going forward, I will continue to monitor the wind output and power price we achieve each month. If our performance falls consistently below the P50 level I will report it to the Board so that we can consider whether or not we need to make any reductions in our operating budget to compensate.

10) Re-Financing

I have written to Santander again and also written to Triodos to ask for quotes.

The Report was noted.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(1) Andrew Mackenzie enquired about the possibility of creating a central on line system whereby members could pick up their agenda papers in the one place.

It was agreed to explore the possibility of setting such a facility for Board members.

(2) The General Manager indicated to the Board that Dan Morrison, LED Project Manager had recently had another addition, a baby girl, to his family and sought approval from the Board to send its congratulations and a small gift to Dan and his family.

I**t was agreed that the Board send their congratulations to Dan and a small gift from the Board members and staff.**

(3) It was noted that Katie Laing had scooped the Top Story of the Year award at the Highlands and Islands Media Awards for her coverage of “David v Goliath windfarm dispute” between local crofters and international developers.

It was agreed that the Board’s congratulations be sent to Katie Laing.

12 DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Tuesday 20 March 2018.

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