POINT AND SANDWICK POWER &POINT AND SANDWICK TRUST JOINT BOARD

MINUTES – 23 JANUARY 2024

Minute of Meeting of Joint Board of Directors of **Point and Sandwick Trust and Point and Sandwick Power** on **Monday 23 January 2024** at **7.00pm** in **Aros an Rubha**.

PRESENT:	Norman Mackenzie (Chair) Angus McCormack (Hon President) - by Zoom Agnes Munro, Board Member Duncan Mackay, Board Member Donald Macdonald, Board Member Jane Watson, Board Member Eddie Macgregor, Board Member Andrew Mackenzie, Board Member Steve McDonald, PSP Board Member- by Zoom Donald John MacSween, General Manager Calum Macdonald, Development Manager Catherine Anne Smith, Finance Manager Christina Smith, Office Manager
APOLOGIES	Rhoda Mackenzie (Vice-Chair) Gordon Mackay, Board Member Rhona Gallagher, Board Member Dan Maclennan, Board Member Ian Irvine, PSP Board Member Viv Halcrow, Croft Woodland Officer (U&B) Robin Reid, Croft Woodland Officer (L&H)

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF POINT AND SANDWICK TRUST AND POINT AND SANDWICK POWER

Donald John MacSween, General Manager, chaired the meeting and called for nominations for Chair of Point and Sandwick Trust who would also serve as Chair of Point and Sandwick Power.

Norman Mackenzie was nominated by Agnes Munro and seconded by Andrew Mackenzie and was therefore appointed as Chair.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR OF POINT AND SANDWICK TRUST AND POINT AND SANDWICK POWER

Mr Norman Mackenzie took the Chair and called for nominations for the post of Vice-Chair of Point and Sandwick Trust who would also serve as Vice-Chair of Point and Sandwick Power

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Rhoda Mackenzie was nominated by Duncan Mackay and seconded by Agnes Munro and was therefore appointed as Vice-Chair.

MEMBERSHIPS

It was agreed that membership of PSP Board and Sub–Committees of PST be as follows:-

Point And Sandwick Power Board
Norman Mackenzie, Chair
Rhoda Mackenzie, Vice-Chair
Andrew Mackenzie
Eddie Macgregor
Ian Irvine, Co-opted

Grants Sub-Committee
Norman Mackenzie, Chair
Rhoda Mackenzie, Vice-Chair
Agnes Munro
Eddie Macgregor

Human Resources Sub-Committee
Norman Mackenzie (Chair)
Rhoda Mackenzie
Agnes Munro

1 WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Donald John MacSween and Calum Macdonald declared an interest in Garrabost Mill Item.

3 MINUTES

The Minutes of Meetings of -
(1) Grants Sub-Committee of 25 September 2023; and
(2) PSP/PST Joint Board of Directors of 25 September 2023
were approved.

4 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5 POINT AND SANDWICK POWER by Calum Macdonald

1) Sales and Output and SSE Breaker

Unfortunately, as feared in the last report, the October outage has led to a series of knock-on technical problems and constraints which again restricted output. October was a mere 124 MW hours (or 96% below P50), November just 1,527 hours (45% below) and December is likely to be only 2,150 hours (P50 = 3,300 hours). The result is that 2023 saw by far our worst ever output apart from the complete cable outage in 2021.

The year ended badly as well with a technical fault on the 23rd not being repaired till the 4th of January because of Enercon staff shortages over the Xmas and New Year period, leading to another 12 days lost output. At the present moment, the turbines are operating normally apart from T3 which needs a pole shoe replacement and is capped to 75% output.

In summary, therefore, in 2023 we suffered from record low wind combined with outages in June, October and December, with consequent snagging problems in the aftermath of these outages, resulting in an exceptionally poor year.

To put the year in context, I have listed below each year's output since we started with, In brackets, the average wind yield compared to the P50 expectation:

2016 – 24,379 hours (wind – 19% below P50)
2017 – 29,776 (- 13%)
2018 – 24,318 (- 19%)
2019 – 25,665 (- 20%)
2020 – 22,208 (- 16%)
2021 – 7,861 (- 25%)
2022 – 30,878 (- 13%)
2023 – 16,432 (-24%)

As Pentland wind farm has been in the same boat (suffering from the same shut downs this year plus knock on effects), I have agreed to meet with Peter Crone on the 24th to assess our options, but I don't hold out great hopes for a solution. The main cause of our losses is not Enercon but SSE.

2) Wind farm subsea insurance

To add to our disappointments in 2023, the insurance claim for the October outage has been turned down because SSE confirmed to the insurers that their breaker leakage fault was caused by wear and tear rather than by an accident or other insured event. This means that we won't be able to recover even the two weeks' worth of output value that we had hoped. There is no update re subsea cable insurance although CPOH are still looking into this. Perhaps we should be looking at a wider scheme that covers all losses due to SSE wear and tear – but I have no idea who would insure that given SSE's poor record.

3) Community Battery Project

There is much better news on this project. Following the breakthrough meeting with National Grid in November, we have now submitted a formal application to modify the grid connection offer – a 'ModAp'. This costs another £19,000, which is very aggravating as it is NG's failure to understand our request in the original application which has necessitated the new request. However, I didn't want to waste further time arguing as they do not start the application 'clock' until the fee is paid. Instead, I will request a refund once we get the new grid offer back although I have no great hope I will get it.

The planning aspect of the project has also made good progress. The two big issues we were facing were the need to accommodate the sewage and water pipes that currently run underneath the site, and the need to conform to the Council's strict noise guidelines for the battery. As regards the former, CalMax has confirmed with Scottish Water that the pipes can be protected or shifted without too great a difficulty and as regards the latter, the noise consultants have recommended the use of acoustic barriers which will ensure that the battery conforms to the noise requirements.

These two issues have been progressed, I am working with our consultants, Greenspan, to submit the planning application as soon as possible.

4) Community Cable to Skye
No update.

5) Hydrogen

A meeting was held on 17 January with Graham Rice who is the Head of Sales at Siemens-Gamesa. Siemens have PEM electrolysers which they are keen to deploy, and Graham and I discussed potential projects in Lewis using funding from the UK Government's next Hydrogen Round. I believe there would be an opportunity to use the proposed new community wind farm at Arnish to provide up to 50 MW of electricity for a Siemens electrolyser but, unfortunately, progress on that still appears to be stuck at the Stornoway Trust.

6) Community Energy Scotland

I attended further meetings on 4th December and 10th January with CES, Community Land Scotland, Development Trusts Association Scotland, Scottish Community Finance and Community Shares Scotland to discuss our common paper on community energy which is progressing reasonably well.

7) Dividend

John Moffat is working with Engie to confirm the overpayment we received at the beginning of 2023 when the SMS meter was not functioning. The figures produced by Engie don't appear to be correct so we need to agree these before we can complete the accounts and get Jon Dobson to assess the divided position for the financial year 2024/25.

8) Potential Corporate PPA
These discussions involving Stornoway Port Authority, the Hebridean Distillery and Engie are still ongoing.

The report was noted.

6 CROFT WOODLAND PROJECT

Update for Point and Sandwick Trust Board meeting 23rd January 2024
Period covered: 20th November 2023 – 23rd January 2024 (8 weeks)
Overview:
Viv: 1, and Robin : 5 **enquiries** during the period, bringing the total so far to 780 enquiries
Viv: 0, and Robin 3: **site visits** in the period, a total of 692 croft visits to date. Not every enquiry needs a visit; many are advice only. Three site visits on Lewis had to be postponed in January due to snow. Viv is currently on the mainland, until late February.

MOREwoods :
A good number of schemes are in development for the coming planting season and have been uploaded to Woodland Trust's central system for processing. There are six in Uist (one person had to withdraw for health reasons) and five in Barra. In addition Viv developed and uploaded two for Lewis which had been delayed from previous years. Robin has developed a further fourteen schemes that are due to be delivered on Lewis/Harris with two more still in development. Trees were delivered to the first three Lewis schemes in November 2023 with the bulk of deliveries planned for February and March. In Uist and Barra, 4340 trees are on order and will be delivered from the Isle of Eigg tree nursery, and Alba Trees, in mid-March. Viv will divide up these bulk deliveries, along with the necessary guards, etc, and deliver them to the crofters. Although quite an input of time, it does enable Viv to discuss any queries the crofters may have about planting and aftercare. This was found to be useful last year. It's hoped that developing the Uist tree nursery will be a very positive step for supplying future schemes. On Lewis and Harris around 10,000 trees are currently committed to projects and its is hoped that the remaining trees reserved from Stark's Ark will be allocated over the next few weeks.

SRDP (Forestry Grant Scheme):
Planting is almost complete for the scheme at Carinish, N Uist, but it wasn't possible to source the 450 necessary willow plants of the correct genetic provenance. These have been ordered for November 2024 which will enable the planting to be finished. Issues like this have a knock-on effect in terms of the FGS contract (a Variation has to be applied for) and repayment of the loan (negotiation with the lender is needed). Viv is helping the crofter with this additional admin. Two further schemes are in development: one on Grimsay and one on Eilean Flodda, Benbecula, each around 1 hectare in area. These are very close to being submitted, following a lot of liaison with the crofters and appointment of a contractor to carry out the necessary mapping and admin, and should be approved by the end of April. Fencing, mounding and planting should be completed by the end of March 2025.
On Lewis, planting has started at Scaladale and the Scaliscro scheme is ready for planting. The Torastay fencing is nearing completion and planting is starting at Lickisto at the end of January. Calbost fencing is also just about to start. Fencing materials are being sourced for the 17 Lemreway project and the CWP will be helping with those fencing cost through a top-up grant to make the project affordable.
The 8 Lemreway project needed to be amended in response to comments received from the CnES about the proximity of deer fencing to the road which has reduced the size if the scheme slightly.

The 36 hectare Crobeg Woodland Improvement Grant application was submitted in early January and we hope to hear the outcome of this application in March. This has involved a lot of work to develop and is quite different to the other woodland projects that we have been involved in as this project involves the restoration and expansion of existing woodland rather that new woodland creation.

Free Crofting Tree packs: 2023/24 planting:
There is one pack arranged for next season in Benbecula in Uist. We have received four community tree pack enquiries from Lewis and one from Harris for planting this season.

Community events:
Two community planting days are planned, one in Uist and one in Barra, for late March.

Planting totals:
In Uist and Barra, 5340 trees are scheduled for planting this 2023/24 season through MOREwoods, a community pack and two community planting days. In addition, the Carinish FGS scheme has so far planted 1760 trees: a total of 7100 new trees in the ground.
On Lewis and Harris approximately 35,000 trees are due to be planted in the coming planting season through FGS and MOREwoods schemes. However, due to the number of trees involved and limited tree stock available it is possible that planting may need to be split between two seasons for one or two of the FGS schemes. For several of the Lewis FGS schemes the CWP is providing top-up funding to make the projects viable for crofters as the grant available through FGS is not sufficient to meet the costs of deer fencing in particular.

SSE Compensatory Planting
Following discussions between SSEN and the North Harris Trust, SSEN have now approached Robin directly seeking advice on potential compensatory planting projects on Lewis and Harris. SSEN is required to find 14 hectares of ground that could be planted with native trees to compensate for the loss of sections of the Aline plantation to make way for the new replacement overhead line that is just about to be constructed. SSEN will offer significantly more to the crofter than the FGS grant will pay and therefore this is an opportunity to create woodland at sites that are expensive to plant due to their remote location or topography that makes installation of deer fencing expensive. Robin is meeting SSEN on site in the 29th January to discuss and look at options.

Nursery Network:
Viv continues to support the Uist Community Tree Nursery, working with on-the-ground- staff at Tagsa Uibhist. A contractor is now in place (working 3 hours a week until the end of May 2024) to supervise the nursery through the winter and prepare for and carry out next year's spring sowing and development work.
Storas Uibhist initially supported this project, and a further 750 trees, grown from locally collected seed, will be supplied to them for planting on the estate next winter.
Currently there are around 3000 young trees growing on in rabbit-proof holding boxes: rowan, alder, downy birch, eared willow, and grey willow. The aim is to grow between 6000 and 10,000 annually, which would supply MOREwoods planting and tree packs. There is a core group of twelve volunteers (some of the Uist Woodlanders) who are helping with the more time-consuming tasks at the nursery, and with seed collection.

A good quantity of birch seed is in cold storage, including Barra seed, and alder seed was collected by groups of volunteers in Uist and in Barra during November, also now in cold storage. In addition we have some rowan and hawthorn seed collected by individuals and processed, and Viv scavenged a few hazelnuts (in short supply last year) in Uig, Skye which are stratifying in damp sand to break dormancy.

Woodland Trust has partnered with Trees for Life to support tree seed collecting volunteers at several hubs in the west of Scotland. Roz Birch is now in post with TfL and doing a great job of delivering training and keeping volunteers informed. Roz will be visiting Uist, Harris and Lewis in early March to see our situation and meet some of the volunteers.

In addition to this, Craig Shearer is still on contract to Woodland Trust until the end of May, supporting small nurseries with the practical aspects of setting-up and efficient development.

Woodland Survey:
We are currently planning how best to go about the survey work, in order to use time efficiently.

Carbon Neutral Island:
Barra is one of the six Carbon Neutral Islands. Viv has been in discussion with the team there on the subject of tree-planting. The intention is for the CNI team to purchase approximately 4000 trees and make these available to crofters and others who are keen to plant. Viv helped the CNI team with species selection and recommended suppliers. She will deliver an online session on site selection and ground preparation, and a practical session in March on planting technique and maintenance.
A Barra crofter is keen to establish a tree nursery there; there has been no progress with this due to his already busy workload (he is also one of the CNI team).

Promotion:
Viv is intending to promote the Croft Woodland Project in Uist and Barra this year, as the number of enquiries has fallen.
Fb pages: 'Western Isles Trees on the Croft' post and 'Croft Woodland Project' posts.

Training:
Viv is considering a 'how to look after your young trees' event. The Croft Woodland Project has now been active for eight years, and many of the early plantings will benefit from some maintenance.

General:
On 7th December, Robin took part in a zero-carbon debate about land use as a panel member. The event was held at UHI and part of the Islands Cente for Net Zero initiative.
Viv took part in a Uist and Barra Crofting Advisory Group meeting, arranged by Species on the Edge officer Emma Stobart.
Woodland Trust Scotland: monthly recording updates, Outreach team meeting, Scotland team meeting. Vehicle – new brakes all round, and all-season tyres fitted.

The Report was noted.

6 EMERGENCY SUPPORT UNIT: PROGRESS REPORT

1.0 General Summary
We have now taken around 323 referrals and so far helped over 206 eligible households with grant assistance, distributing approximately £202,750 in the period from around 1st January 2023 to the mid Jan 2024.

Since the previous board report at the end of November we have seen an increased flow of referrals into the Energy Support Unit with some exceptionally needy cases. We have also encountered a number of non-eligible households in the last quarter.

Referrals
The referral rate has improved over the early winter as households began to experience colder outside temperatures. This does tend to focus the minds as the heating season gets into full swing and increases the need for uptake.

In addition, OFGEM announced that the energy bills Price Cap would once again be increased albeit moderately, as of Jan 1st 2024 (the OFGEM announcement of course is somewhat misleading as it refers to a UK average which is deceptively low for electrically heated island homes. Also, the 'Energy Bill Support Scheme' has been removed and the increase in tariff will in many cases further compound the removal of that £400 subsidy).

Processing
Over the late autumn/early winter months we have been concentrating on reaching and clearing as many outstanding cases on the earlier part of the database (by obtaining their evidence) while continuing to raise awareness and reaching those not on digital media. We have worked with the Hebridean Housing Partnership to raise awareness with their tenants. They have distributed leaflets and supported that with a covering letter to all their tenants in the Point & Sandwick area. This has generated a significant inflow of referrals for Dan to work through during and has helped take us over the £200k mark as a total distributed.

Reach of HSF Assistance & Feedback
Of the cases closed to date we are successfully assisting with funding support 77% of those households. On average these are receiving around £950 towards their bills. The feedback from customers has been exceptionally supportive and all have welcomed the support even where they have not qualified for HSF.

Levels of Fuel Poverty & the Fuel Poverty Gap
The levels of fuel poverty encountered in the PST area continue to sit around 88%. When considering these 88% the average spend for fuel is 24% of their net income. The resulting average fuel poverty gap (the difference between the amount you would have to spend to meet the Govt heating regime and 10% of the adjusted net income) is a staggering £2,334.

Impact
Given the average level of assistance being distributed being £950-£1000 the impact is self-evident meeting between 40-50% of the Fuel poverty gap. This is by far the most generous scheme nationally and exceeds any of the national or UK government assistance levels.

Marketing
We have now individually leafleted all HHP housing schemes in the PST area followed up by a separate leaflet distributed for us by HHP directly. We intend to issue a circular via Royal mail to all PST post codes. We have attended HHP and community events (e.g. old folks Christmas event at Sandwick School) to raise awareness and take referrals. We visited a number of local clubs in Q4 2023.

Training
Following the November board meeting Stewart & Kenny have successfully undertaken their fast-track Energy Performance Certificate training course in Lutterworth, Leicestershire They are now qualified Domestic Energy Assessors and are in the process of registering with the accreditation scheme in order to begin EPC surveys in early February 2024.

2.0 Dashboard

Energy Support Unit Dashboard				
Measure	**Total**	**Subset**	**%**	
Number of Clients referred	324			
No. of home visits completed	204			
No. of cases closed	270		83%	
No of cases open	54		17%	
Awaiting evidence from clients	2			
No of clients receiving funds	**203**		75%	of closed cases
Average assistance	**£ 924**			
Total Amount to be Disbursed	**£ 203,750**			
No of clients fuel poor (SG def)	81		30.0%	of closed cases
No of clients extreme fuel poor	160		59.3%	of closed cases
No of clients not fuel poor	27		10.0%	of closed cases
No of clients -onward only	2		0.7%	of closed cases
Average Depth of Fuel Poverty	24%	of Income spent on fuel		
No of clients signposted	54			Some clients are signposted to more than one organisation
No of clients not eligible	48			some clients are ineligible for more than one reason (e.g. >£28k savings plus less than 10% FP)
Non eligible -Savings over £28k		36		
Non eligible -income over £35.5k		29		
Revised policy eligible -10%-20% FP		77		
Non eligible -below 10%		27		

Fire Alarm Scheme	Total
Case Referrals	176
Homes Installed	111
Homes Advice given	4
Already Installed	40
Declined	1
Not Eligible	3
Visit Booked	5
Outstanding (Max)	6
No Response	5
Passed away	1
No of Smoke Detectors installed	406
No of Heat detectors installed	115
No of CO detectors installed	129

The Report was noted.

7 POINT AND SANDWICK TRUST by Donald John MacSween

1. Finance

The balance in the PST account is £1,130,000 and the balance in the ESU account is £29,717.00.

A Report on actual spend compared to the Budget is shown in the paper which has been separately circulated.

A total of c£1,000,000 is now deposited in various banks via Insignis, a decision on further investments will be made after the next payment of Gift Aid, still outstanding for May 23 and November 23, is received. The options for further Insignis investments are exhausted because we have run out of banks to make deposits.

A six-monthly review of the 23/24 budget will be tabled at the March Board meeting.

2. Grants Sub-Committee: 23 January 2024

The Grants Sub-Committee's recommendations from its meeting on 23 January 2024 were as follows:-

Organisation	**Project**	**Amount Sought**	**Grant Sub Rec**
Aignish Cemetery	Improvements to cemetery.	£5,000	**Approve**
WI Assoc for Mental Health	Delivery of Catch 23 Support Services delivered by WIAMH.	£9,771	**Approve**
Garrabost Mill Trust	Publication of "Life and Times of the Garrabost Mill".	£3,500	**Approve**
UHI NW&H	Development of Hydrogren portable training unit for use in Western Isles.	£40,000	**Approve.** Subject to PST purchasing equipment which will be on loan to Dr Alasdair Macleod, UHI for use only in the Western Isles.
Coastal Path Melbost - Braighe	Proposal to build new 3-metre-wide disability friendly path from Melbost to Braighe.	£150,000	**Approve**
Coastal Path Aird – Sheshader	Improvements to section from Aird to Sheshader.	£42,000	**Approve**
Coastal Path Black Sandy	Upgrade and extend 3-metre-wide disability friendly track to the bay east of Black Sandy.	£62,605	**Defer until March meeting.**
Point Sports and Recreation Assoc	Improvement works at Pairc an Rubha including weather protection and public address system for information and safety.	£20,000	**Approve**

The recommendations by the Grants Sub-Committee were approved.

3. Point and Sandwick Trust: Community Support

Coastal Trail
Tony Robson is progressing Steinish headland section through Mossend Residents Association. This long-awaited section has started. Alasdair initiated discussion with Paths for All to seek funding for both Aird, Upper Aird to Sheshader, and the Braighe crossing. Crown Estates made an earlier contribution of £14.K towards some additional Sheshader work. Planning applications have been submitted for Black Sandy and the Melbost-Aignish projects. There is a real prospect of a significant external grant of nearly £200K if matching funds are approved. Paths for All indicate a tight schedule and encourage their applications to be submitted on the basis of an end of March start. A Trail Review went to the path group in January and that is available for PST trustees for information.

E-Bikes - The Energy Savings Trust agreed to support the purchase of 5 more hybrid bikes and two dual cargo bikes, doubling the e-bike pool. These were delivered in 2023. Recent data show that 23 users have cycled more than twice the equivalent length of North 500 with 1,250 miles cycled locally by users. Those are on a free loan basis for eligible users and the cost of living crisis is part of the rationale for continuing this for the benefit local volunteers and those with health issues or on low incomes. Alasdair and Steve Gillian visited Donald MacDonald before Christmas and thanked him for continuing to look after some bikes from North Street.

Sandwickhill School
A steering group was initially set up to take this forward and open a bank account. In 2023 a full charity constitution for the group was approved by OSCR. Advise has been given to the group to include renewables from the start of any development and inclusion of a shop facility should be on the premise of a community managed and owned shop hosted within the building. Alasdair Nicolson encouraged the charity to pursue dialogue between them and An Lanntair to facilitate further prospective partnership action. This has occurred and seems positive. Alasdair Nicolson attended a meeting in January which discussed the initial costings from the HIE consultants. It is suggested that the HIE funded report is not the way ahead and other avenues will be explored with local input.

The following item on Garrabost Mill is confidential
Garrabost Mill.
A substantial effort has gone into this project, particularly over the previous twelve months. It should be appreciated that GMT only took ownership in January 2023. Transforming a project from an idea on paper to an actual project can be challenging for trustees and all concerned. Significantly, this has been accomplished over a relatively short timeframe, and the phase one and two works, identified in the feasibility study, now near completion. Additional works have been identified and started including a lime mortar on the inside of the outbuildings and sundry work funded by PST. An application to PST has been made for a book researched by Ali Whiteford and Helen Macdonald.

Social Enterprise
At the PST Away Day, a paper was presented to set up a social enterprise tour company. A shadow trustee group has been set up as a member/ officer working party of PST. This is working on the company structure and creation. It is envisaged that this will make progress over the coming months. Steps have been taken to link into partner policy frameworks and tourism networks.

Other
A number of support meetings have been followed up to engage with groups who have approached PST for assistance. This has included Lewis and Harris Piping Association who were able to gain WIDT funding and The Western Isles Book Trust.

4 Knock Mission Hall/ Land Adjacent to Aros

There has been no further progress on these two items.

5 Just Enterprise Review

This exercise has been largely completed with the approval of changes to the memorandum and Articles approved at the AGM in November.

The Resilience and Forward Planning section of the report will be discussed at the next meeting of the HR Sub-Committee.

6 Marybank Community Association

It is recommended that payment of £5,000 to the above group is reinstated from the PSP budget set aside for that purpose. Payment will depend on receipt of their annual accounts.

8 Point and Sandwick Trail Review.

Substantial progress has been made since the group was constituted in August 2016 as detailed in the Trail Report separately circulated to Board Members.

Three applications were considered by Grants Sub-Committee on and the Board during this round of meetings and the Point and Sandwick Trail Review has been circulated to all Board members for additional information.

The General Manager's Report was agreed and noted.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman reported that a meeting had been requested by the Stornoway Trust in connection with PST's commitment via the Back Letter to the Lease to pay £5,000 per MW per year to a community fund to be set up by the Stornoway Trust. At the meeting held on 18 January 2024 which was attended by the Chairman and General Manager of Point and Sandwick Trust, the Stornoway Trust came up with a new proposal which is outlined below.

The proposal is that:

1) Point and Sandwick Power will contribute £50,000 to a new community fund into which Lewis Wind Farm and Pentland Wind Farm will also pay £50,000 each.

2) Point and Sandwick Trust will be entitled to a representative on the new Community Fund Committee deciding the use of the fund (LWP and Pentland have indicated that they will not be taking a seat on the Committee).

3) Payments in future years will be in accordance with the Back Letter.

4) The remainder of the outstanding funds which have been held back since 2019/20 will be spent on a major capital project to be jointly agreed by Point and Sandwick Trust and the Stornoway Trust together.

The Chairman stated that he believed the proposals had the following advantages for Point and Sandwick Trust:

1) It fulfils our objective of having a say in the distribution of our funds.

2) It also gives Point and Sandwick Trust a say in the distribution of the whole fund which, of course, will be three times the size of our fund.

3) The large size of this fund will prove very helpful to us in the long term as it will be used as a first port of call for a lot of funding bids from outside Point and Sandwick area which currently come our way and which we frequently feel obliged to support.

The Chairman explained that he believed that this proposal was a good compromise which would serve our interests well and satisfactorily resolve a long-standing issue.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Chairman would prepare a report and send it to all members of the Board as soon as possible for their consideration and to give them an opportunity to express their views on this matter. The Chairman asked if it would be possible to let him have a response, given the timescale involved, by 5.00 pm on Friday 26 January 2024 and he would then convey the decision of the Point and Sandwick Trust Board on this matter to the Stornoway Trust.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

26 March 2024**.**

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