

ENCOMM

MINUTES OF TRUSTEE MEETING THURSDAY 21 OCTOBER 2021 6.30pm at Formighty Hall

PRESENT: Linda Henderson (LAH), Peter Arris (PA), Aileen Asher Smith (AAS), Brian Mountjoy (BM), Martine Scott (MS)

APOLOGIES: Oliver Stone (OS)

1. Minutes of Trustee management meeting of 22 July 2021 were approved.
There being no new grant applications this quarter the meeting is a management meeting
2. Matters Arising -
Other wind farms:
 - a. Tom nan Clach Extension. PA and BM will attend the public exhibition at Carrbridge on Thursday 28 October. The understanding is that the community benefit that would arise if it goes ahead will be pro-rata the existing arrangement between the communities affected.
 - b. Lethen/Fred Olson – this is now a reduced proposal of 17 turbines and the proposal regarding community benefit is that a fund of £470k pa would be distributed on the same lines as Tom nan Clach. ENCC are consultees but LH has suggested to the Community Liaison Group company rep that the various community benefit organisations need to be invited onto the Group.
3. Treasurer's Report – funds at today's date stand at:
Bank of Scotland Business Account : £90231.39. PA had been trying to get the Bank to waive the charges due to start this week but nothing doing so the Trustees agreed to accept the £7 per month charge rather than look elsewhere for now.
EQ Fund main - £283445 on investments totalling £250k giving current unrealised gains of £33445 in around 12 months.
EQ Additional Fund - £16631 on the matching fund of £15k giving unrealised gains of £1631
While the markets remain extremely volatile the Trustees felt all of the signs with the necessity of building a greener future were positive. It was agreed that if the matching fund surplus reached £2k this should be skimmed to provide current income if the Trustees felt it was needed.
It was agreed that a "prudence" review should be undertaken every 3 years from the time of the original decision regarding the Endowment fund – so November 2023.
4. Fornighty Hall Upgrade Review. The Hall Committee had provided a detailed summary of their actions which pleased the Trustees. A copy is attached to these minutes. It was agreed that AA would take on the liaison role again for the Trustees.
5. Website and membership – this remains unchanged. Trustees felt it was time for a newsletter to members and one to go to all households. Contents to include Fornighty, Fire alarm grants (below) and green futures ideas.
Action LH
6. AGM Planning – it was felt desirable to hold a face-to-face AGM with the backstop of electronic. The paperwork can initially be circulated to members online but if we can meet new members can sign up at the door. It was agreed to have some engagement event incorporating the AGM. MS to deliver ideas.
Action MS

Date – THURSDAY 17 MARCH 2022

7. Fire Safety Costs – LH outlined the new legal requirements in Scotland regarding the fitting of new linked alarms and suggested a grant towards the costs for house owners might be a suitable use of funds. The Trustees agreed and set an amount of the lesser of £100 or the cost per household, evidenced by invoice either of equipment or an electrician. Tenants would not be incurring these costs and landlords would not qualify. There may be some variation re farm occupants – those on

full repairing leases paying only ground rent would qualify.

Board members may qualify but their applications must be overseen by other Trustees.

Action: **LH to word and design application. LH & PA will deal with applications.**

8. AOCB – nothing arises
9. Date of next management meeting – Thursday 3 February 2022 at Fornightly Hall 6.30pm
[Date if next Trustee Award meeting - Thursday 21 January 2022]

Appended

Fornightly Hall Update for ENCOMM, 20th Oct 2021

Lease

The new lease has been signed and a copy forwarded to ENCOMM on 18th Aug 2021. The lease expiry date is now 4th June 2042.

Building Warrant

The building warrant was approved by Highland Council on 31st Aug 2021, a copy has been sent through to ENCOMM for their records.

The Construction Compliance and Notification Plan details the point in time that the authority needs to be consulted on the warrant. In this instance it is simply a notification of commencement a week prior to starting and an application for completion certificate. They have indicated they will need an electrical certificate on completion of the works also which would accompany the application for completion certificate. So, in summary this should be pretty straightforward.

Tendering Process

Once the building warrant had been approved, we were then able to go out to tender. Glyn Young associates put together a tender package which was sent to 7 contractors (Dougie Elliot, Scot Johnstone, Darroch and Allan, F&G joiners, 7even construction Limited, Compass, AW Laing). Emails were sent out on 25th September with a closing date initially set for 15th October. Three contractors declined to tender. Two contractors requested an extension due to delays with obtaining subcontractor's estimates. We are therefore having to extend the tender period to endeavour so far as possible to obtain a sufficient number of tender returns in order to meet funding requirements. The amended tender date will now be 12 noon on Monday 25th October 2021.

Timeline

The committee will aim for a project start date of June 2022. This should give us time to gather enough funds to proceed with the full plans and is a realistic start date due to current builder commitments.

Funding

An application to Scotland Love Local Fund II was made on 30th September which was counter signed by David Haas, the temporary ward manager. An email reply stated that the fund received more applications than expected and is presently oversubscribed. The expected announcement of successful applications will now be early November 2021.

An update letter was sent to Davidson Trust in October to inform them on progress made since they provided us the funds for completing the condition survey report and to notify that a further application for financial support will be forthcoming.

The Fornightly Hall has also become a member of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisation (SCVO) and has full access to the funding information.

Currently we are working on the application form for the Davidson Trust and will now concentrate fully on devising a list of funders to work through. Unfortunately, we missed the September deadline for the Berry Burn Windfarm as we did not have the completed tenders back in time. The next deadline is Jan 2022.

Events

The Wildlife Group has been formed and has held its inaugural event on Sunday 15th August. The Pond Dipping and craft session was very well attended. Subsequently a Wildwoods Workshop was held on 26th September.

A Pilates class started on Tuesday mornings. The class, capped at 12, is currently fully booked.

A Public Consultation for the Lethen Windfarm was held at the hall on 1st September.

Future events planned are:

Sunday 24th November – Wildlife Group walk collecting items for making a Mandala

Tuesday 2nd November – Jack Harrison to give a talk on bird flight

Tuesday 9th November – Christmas Crafts at Fornightly Hall

Saturday 20th November - Stars and Wildlife - a night walk with Dan Puplett

Sunday 5th December 12pm - 3pm – Christmas Fundraiser – raffle/teas/cakes/stalls etc

Saturday 18th December - Nature Mandala making with Terese Muskus / Ali Pretty

Sunday 19th December - singing workshop with Maggie Newlands and public viewing of the completed Mandala

Thursday 5th May – Hall to be used as a polling station

Friday 6th May – Wildwood Jack two piece band

Friday 20th May – Hire of hall for local wedding

Other

Jo Hill has joined the committee, bring with her experience of grant funding.

Linda, Jo and Ali have been working on the Fornightly Hall Business Plan (delayed slightly due to people being away) but will be submitted as soon as it is completed.