

Island of Hoy Development Trust Meeting Minutes

OPEN
MEETING

DATE 16/11/2022 TIME 7:30PM

REVENGE, NAVAL HALL &
REMOTELY VIA ZOOM

Meeting Called By	Debs Jaques
Minute Secretary	Deanna Johnston
Type of Meeting	Open Board
List of Board Members	Debs Jaques, Moira Cossar, Max Collop, Andy Dobrzynski (Zoom), Lindsay Hall (Zoom)
NON BOARD	Liz Davidson, Deanna Johnston, Brian Clegg, Sharon Clegg, Kim Dobrzynski (Zoom), Nici Budge (Zoom), Denize Lace (Zoom)
APOLOGIES	Keith Dobney, Scott Johnston, Christine Bolton, Alex Sinclair, Kieran Sinclair

Topics

1 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING DEBS

Summary of Discussion	<p>BOARD MEETING</p> <p>The minutes of the October 2022 open board meeting were circulated to the Board prior to the meeting. The minutes were proposed as correct by Moira Cossar, seconded by Andy Dobrzynski and signed by the Chair.</p>
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2 MATTERS ARISING ALL

Summary of Discussion	There were no matters arising.
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3 YM MOIRA

Summary of Discussion	<p>Moira informed the meeting attendees that YM Empower is not currently pursuing the funding for the energy upgrades and that the application for funding has been parked for now. Priorities for the SCIO are currently to apply for core funding via the 'Awards for All' fund to finance a Bookkeeping/Finance Admin position for 1 year up to the value of £10,000. Moira added that the SCIO are also looking to apply into the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund.</p> <p>Liz asked for Moira to send the details for the windows which need replacing to her so that the Office can source some quotes for the works. Max queried whether or not the YM is a listed building and will investigate this further as this will affect which materials can be used for the works.</p>
Conclusions	<p>The SCIO are pursuing funding towards a Bookkeeper/Finance Officer via the 'Awards for All' fund.</p> <p>Quotes will be sourced for the works on the windows, Max will check the details around whether or not the YM is listed and the impact this will have on potential replacement windows.</p>
Action Items	Max to investigate listed status of the YM, and the impact this will have on materials which can be used.

4	FINANCE	LIZ
Summary of Discussion	<p>Liz has been chasing Scholes regarding the audit as she is yet to have received the draft accounts, the returns for which must be submitted by the 31st December 2022. Liz suggested that the approval for the accounts will need to be completed by email correspondence with the Directors. Liz expressly requested that Directors all respond as soon as possible once Liz sends across the email to them. Due to the length of time taken so far, Scholes required additional documents to be submitted such as more recent meeting minutes.</p> <p>Liz raised concerns over the available funds left to cover the electricity bills at the YM and proposed that the IoHDT move £1500 from Priority Projects to the YM operations fund in order to cover the costs until the end of March 2023. Currently the YM is contracted with Opus at 16p per unit which will certainly increase significantly at the end of the contract in March. Moira is concerned that this may make the YM non-viable.</p> <p>Brian queried whether or not the SCIO have been able to analyse where the building is using most of its energy, this is currently unclear. Nici suggested that the heating may be too high. Moira explained the challenges in managing the heating system due to various user groups altering settings, therefore it was decided to set the temperature at 18 degrees constantly. After discussion, it was agreed that Brian would implement an analysis and control system with the desired outcome of alleviating the pressure on the SCIO, and making financial savings where possible. All Directors agreed that this was the best course of action and for Liz to transfer the funds from Priority Projects to YM operations.</p>	
Conclusions	<p>Once Directors receive Liz's email regarding the audit, their approval has been requested as soon as possible in order to get the accounts submitted before 31st December 2022.</p> <p>After discussion about energy usage at the YM, it has been agreed to transfer £1500 from Priority Projects to YM operations to cover the energy bills until the end of March, and for Brian to implement an analysis and control system.</p>	

5	HEALTH & WELLBEING	MOIRA
Summary of Discussion	<p>Denize confirmed that poverty levels on the Island continue to be high, and is hoping for positives to come out of the upcoming budget. Denize explained that there is a great deal of funding available for those who receive benefits and other Govt. funding, however, the most at risk people currently appear to be those who are just above the threshold for receiving support who are struggling with the cost of living crisis. Denize has 'cosy packs' due to be distributed in December. A recent transition within the benefit system which has seen 'Social Security Scotland' take over distributing some benefits has proven to be challenging.</p> <p>Denize confirmed that the groups that she runs continue to do well, however, expressed concerns regarding the previous conversation regarding the potential reduction in temperature at the YM as she would like to ensure that people are kept warm. Moira suggested keeping the Shore at a higher temperature than the Hall and to keep the doors closed. Liz queried whether or not the YM could simply lean on the support already committed from Priority Projects until the end of March, by which stage it is hoped that the</p>	

	<p>adjustments which Brian implements would be operational. All Directors agreed.</p> <p>Having previously discussed the possibility of waiving the hire fees for regular groups throughout Winter in order to attempt to alleviate some of the social isolation, Moira confirmed that the total saving across all groups would amount to around £1800. Deanna will contact the regular groups and let them know about the initiative.</p> <p>Moira mirrored what Denize previously said about the poverty on the Island and confirmed that things would 'only get worse'. Moira added that VAO had confirmed that they are happy for the Trust to submit a funding application to the Health and Wellbeing Fund. It was agreed that Kim would base herself at the YM for a few hours per week as an extra support to individuals who were looking for support/advice under the banner of 'Community Hub', and refer as appropriate.</p> <p>Debs has received correspondence from the Project Manager for the wellbeing project, who has decided to change how the project is monitored in future. The proposed changes will see an alternative Trust rep become the steering group attendee, and keep the line management separate. Denize fears that this may be an attempt to curtail what Denize does, and how she does it in favour of cost cutting.</p>
Conclusions	<p>Poverty levels on Hoy remain high. Denize's groups continue to be successful and it has been confirmed that the strategy to reduce energy costs will not affect the groups in the short term.</p> <p>Deanna will reach out to regular user groups of the YM and confirm the initiative to tackle social isolation by waiving hall hire fees over the Winter. There may be a possible alteration in how Denize's role will be managed in future, resulting in a separation of line management and steering group attendance.</p>
Action Items	Deanna to contact regular user groups and inform them of the hall hire waiver over Winter.

6	CDO	KIM
Summary of Discussion	<p>Kim confirmed that after a successful application and interview process, the new CNI Officer role has been offered to Aisling Phillips. Aisling starts the role on Thursday 17th November. In a recent CES meeting, Kim met with Becky, who is set to meet with Aisling to discuss the project.</p> <p>The final draft has now been completed for the CAP group, with consultation events arranged for January 2023, the Community Council has agreed to cover the admin costs for the events.</p>	
Conclusions	<p>Aisling Phillips has been recruited as the new CNI Officer.</p> <p>The final CAP draft will be presented at 2 consultation events scheduled for January 2023.</p>	

7	BUSES	DEBS
Summary of Discussion	<p>Debs informed the meeting attendees that despite Taits not having the authorisation to complete the works on the GZE bus, they went ahead with the work anyway. This was an unfortunate breakdown in communication, however, the works cost less than anticipated and as the bus now has an MOT, it will be worth more for the sake of selling it in future.</p> <p>The Fiat bus which has been ordered, is currently undergoing its final checks and tests. The E-bus should be with the IoHDT in February 2023. Debs confirmed that so far, the Trust has been unable to secure any quotes for the</p>	

	<p>installation of charge points for which the grant funding has been secured, this must be used by March 2023. Debs is still awaiting correspondence from other installation suppliers and will keep the Board up to date.</p> <p>Debs intends to run a survey in the new year around the current and desired provision of service with a view to potentially extending the service to cover Hoy runs. The OIC has suggested that the IoHDT could apply for one of their Community Grants to assist in covering some of the costs. Debs suggested that this could be incorporated into Kim's CAP events in January.</p>
Conclusions	<p>Works on the green bus were carried out, it now has an MOT.</p> <p>Both new buses have been ordered. The Fiat is undergoing its final checks, and the E-bus should arrive in February 2023. The Trust has acquired funding for the charger, but is yet to have found a company to undertake the installation works.</p> <p>A survey will be created in January, with a view to potentially offering a Hoy service, this is set to be incorporated into Kim's CAP events in January 2023.</p>

8	TURBINE	BRIAN
Summary of Discussion	<p>Brian informed the meeting attendees that the Turbine operation remains good with no notable items since the report circulated on the 1st of the month. Market uncertainties continue to grow, both in terms of global factors, but more importantly in terms of UK government strategies and plans.</p> <p>The Energy Prices Bill has made it through three readings in both houses, including a pass through Holyrood, in record time and is now an 'act' of parliament. The significance of this act is that legislation can now be created and applied to the energy markets without any consultation or input from OFGEM or wider industry bodies - essentially the renewable energy generation market can now be capped in terms of unit sale price - earlier this year the UK Government consulted with SSE, Scot Power etc and tabled a figure of £50 to £60/MWh - a figure way below the 6 month cap of euro 180/MWh set nearly two months ago by the EU - it is feared by many they may now just impose that level of cap.</p> <p>HEL have canvassed representatives in the SP and UK Governments to exempt 'community generators' from any sales unit price cap - but it is unclear if this will or indeed can be done. CES are also actively engaged in canvassing this case.</p> <p>Latest news - in yesterday's Guardian newspaper - confirmed Jeremy Hunt is also targeting a windfall tax on all generation companies, irrespective of technology, to recover the billions currently being spent on subsidising domestic end user bills. Bottom line - between tonight and the next meeting in 2023, the HEL board are expecting the turbine project to be subject to a unit sales price cap, or a windfall tax, and therefore wish this to be a matter of record. HEL will of course update the trust as things develop and the implications can be better understood and/or forecast</p>	
Conclusions	<p>The Energy Prices Bill is now an 'act' of parliament which could result in a 'cap' in unit sale price without consultation or input from industry bodies. HEL have canvassed reps in the SP and UK Govt. to 'exempt' community generators. There is also a possibility of a windfall tax being imposed on generation companies. Either/or scenario is possible.</p>	

9	HOY ENERGY MATTERS	BRIAN
Summary of Discussion	<p>Whilst the bank account endeavours continue, slower than hoped but not dead yet, the SCIO's ability to provide support for 'urgent cases' within the community is now active.</p>	

	Working with Denize for front line referral has allowed the SCIO to engage with a vulnerable community member and plan remedial work and supplementary heating to prevent hardship as the winter bites. It is hoped that completion of this process is around 14 days from initial referral. Working with the Well-being Officer in this way should hopefully allow HEM to further develop the mode of response and continue to address urgent hardship cases efficiently - more as it happens.
Conclusions	HEM is still without its bank account, however, HEM is now supporting the Community having received its first front-line referral and has recently planned remedial work and supplementary heating to prevent hardship over Winter for one resident.

10	CORRESPONDENCE	ALL
Summary of Discussion	<p>The IoHDT has received a card of thanks from the Hoy Youth Hub. Having been asked by Ian Collins to support with the printing and distribution of the revamped 'Wartime Trail' leaflet, the Directors agreed to contribute £500.</p> <p>Kim has received correspondence from Kirsty McColl regarding the SIF Community Led Housing meeting. Kim will circulate the details to the Directors.</p>	

11	AOB	ALL
Summary of Discussion	<p>Brian requested details of how and when the YM is used from Moira. These will be supplied.</p> <p>Deanna asked if additional equipment could be sourced to facilitate open meetings in the Shore in 2023 as the microphone on the laptop is not substantial enough. Moira confirmed that this equipment was most likely already at the YM and will have a look ahead of the next meeting.</p>	
Action Items	Moira to send utilisation of YM to Brian.	

The meeting closed at: 21:15

Date of next meeting: 18.01.23 (Finance Meeting)

Written by: Deanna Johnston
Minute Secretary

Proposed for adoption by: Max Collop

Seconded by: Andy Dobrzynski



Signed
(Chair)