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## Island of Hoy Development Trust

### OPEN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Held at The Shore, YM, Longhope on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 at 7.30pm

MEETING CALLED BY: Deborah Jaques

MINUTE SECRETARY: Nicola Budge

#### **In Attendance**

BOARD MEMBERS: Deborah Jaques, Brian Clegg, Max Collop (Zoom), Keith Dobney, Scott Johnston (Zoom)

STAFF: Nicola Budge, Lindsay Crowson, , Aisling Phillips, Kieran Sinclair

GUESTS: Teresa Gillespie, Kiera Hollingworth, Deanna Johnston (Zoom)

APOLOGIES: Alexander Sinclair, Elizabeth Davidson

MEETING OPENED: 19.34

#### **Topics**

##### 1. MATTERS ARISING presented by All

There were no matters arising to be addressed.

##### 2. YM presented by Kieran Sinclair

Kieran reported that most of the outstanding repairs have now been fixed, the repairs to door hinges and fire doors were noted to be very reasonably priced, however there are doors with damage which will need to be replaced, quotes for these are £200.00 for the door to the toilet block which has the worst damage and £310.00 to replace the door to the toilet block and the disabled toilet door. It was noted that a procedure for reporting faults from YM Empower to the Trust is required. Kieran is to meet with Moira once a month and report back to the board.

While the cowls were being replaced on the roof, damage was noted and photographed and has been circulated round the board as it is likely to require major work in the medium term. It was decided that investigation is required

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into whether it is best to do remedial work to get a few more years from it or look at a capital project to renew it.

Phil Davies has offered to cut the grass around the YM at no cost, board members discussed insurance implications and waste removal, Debs to forward email to wider board for consideration.

To enable the big screen to be used it needs to be fixed to the roof, Kieran to get manual and specs with details of weigh and fixing methods to Brian for him to look at, Orkney Island Games are interested in setting up a 'Fun Zone' in the YM for Orkney's turn hosting.

YM Empower have held an open meeting to give people a chance to learn more about the YM and to recruit more trustees.

### 3. FINANCE presented by Deborah Jaques

Debs shared the information Liz had sent her for the meeting. The targeted £168k donation from HEL has been allocated – the board voted unanimously to accept it. The requirement for the next twelve months for all budgets is £168k of which £154k will come from the HEL donation and £13k from priority projects. Liz asked for a £1k budget to be set aside for the e-bikes and the remaining £14k of the donation to be transferred to reserves. All directors unanimously agreed.

Scholes had not been back in touch regarding the accounts though this should happen very soon.

The Commercial Combined Insurance renewal has come through at £5953 for the year, this includes e-bikes, it was noted that per the e-bike insurance terms the bikes must be checked before and after hire and a record of maintenance must be kept. To indemnify the trust there must be a clear statement in the paperwork stating that customers are not insured by us when using the bikes.

### 4. HEALTH & WELLBEING presented by Lindsay Crowson

Lindsay informed the board she has been very busy behind the scenes getting things set up along with team meetings with the other WBCs across Orkney. She also noted that her PVG has come back clean. The podiatrist will be visiting again on 18<sup>th</sup> October and this will continue every six weeks, this session booked up within two days. She is about to start training to be able to lead Chair Based Exercise Groups but has arranged with Donna from Orkney Dance and Fitness to run a session in the interim period and Shauna from Aging Well at the Balfour is going to be coming out to see the group too. Donna is also looking at the possibility of offering dance/exercise classes, Lindsay noted that the big screen in the YM would be perfect to facilitate that. Mark at VAO has been helpful with

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funding for CBE and the Board Game Club which will be starting shortly. She is also completing HENRY training via NHS which will allow her to work with young families around nutrition and after completing an Understanding Nutrition course she hopes to be able to offer a weight control class and is speaking to Morgan Marcus in Stromness about developing a Men's Shed program. She is also looking at doing a fortnightly drop in session and both Clan and The Blide Trust have said they would be happy to attend these to be available for islanders, A lady called Petra is also interested in coming out, she does talks on Women's Health and Lindsay is hopeful to also get Roz involved as the Island Nurse. A funding application has been submitted to provide a dinner for people on Christmas Day who would normally be on their own, she is hoping to deliver a dinner if they can't make it to the YM and this event will include a present, games, drinks etc.

Referrals are being passed to Lindsay from both the GPs and Emma Diamond who is Hoy's Social Worker and she has done lots of one to ones across the island as these are definitely needed.

### 5. CNI presented by Aisling Phillips

Aisling informed the board that whilst there had been five expressions of interest given there had only been two applications into the 50k Capital pot being jointly managed by IoHDT and Scottish futures Trust. The application to underdraw the hall ceiling in the YM is proceeding - this means there is an underspend but options around this are being explored.

Aisling is also working on finances to project costings for the CNI projecting the future and options for funding this outwith the Scottish Government and supporting another CNI person in Orkney who will be working to enable the other isles to start down the Carbon Neutral Pathway.

### 6. CDO presented by Kieran Sinclair

Kieran informed the board that he has been tasked with looking at Community Transport, this is being funded through CES and involves a knowledge sharing collaboration on community transport between Orkney and Shetland. A trip to Shetland will take place at the end of October/start of November. Kieran advised that he will need to do a survey/community consultation on the Buses, EVs and e-bikes and present a report to the group. This should allow us to get views from our community and draw on the experiences and knowledge of other community transport groups and the models they use.

Kieran updated the board on the e-bikes, there are a few items still to sort before they can be on the road, including pricing, paperwork, how customers

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access bikes. Discussions touched on the possibility of discount codes, separate rates for islanders and tourists, rates for longer hires. Kieran also mentioned that he would like to start a wellness group where people can come together and cycle which received positive responses from the board. It was agreed that Kieran and Aisling would work together to produce a proposal for a trial with indicative pricing and share it with the board. Aisling added that Alex at Cycle Orkney had offered 1-2 spots for people from Hoy to attend a Maintenance course in October, it was agreed that they would ask the community and if there were no responses Kieran and Aisling would attend.

Kieran advised that the open housing meeting had gone well with a good attendance rate from the wider community. We are in Phase 1 of the application process with Scottish Land Fund and working with Luke Fraser to assess housing needs on the island. This survey will be circulated online and in hard copy in the YM and usual places around the island, he added that Scottish Land Fund would be looking for a 50% response rate. As discussions continued it was decided that it would be useful to have awareness and consultation sessions with the community around the island and that a survey on Transport, Housing and needs of the community could be created to form part of a consultation day.

### 7. BUSES presented by Deborah Jaques

Debs updated the board that the service to Hoy on a Tuesday and Friday has been popular but will cease at the end of October. It has made various Clubs and Lunch club more accessible and there are even people travelling weekly from the Orkney mainland using the service to get to Lunch Club and craft club. Funding needs to be investigated to keep it going next year. The CTGS funding has a £10k ceiling so two applications had to be submitted this year, there may be the possibility of submitting a third application for additional services. Application forms for CTGS come out between November and January with awards usually made between May and July, the implications of this are that the Trust has to commit to operating the service before any funding is confirmed and route and timetable changes have to be submitted to the Traffic Commissioner 54 days before implementation which creates difficulty.

### 8. WIND TURBINE presented by Brian Clegg

Brian advised the board that as per his monthly report which had circulated this morning, September was a low wind month, usually it is the opening month of our high generation season however generation was down £20k in comparison to last year. He noted that the turbine is operating well and reliably just now.

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HEL are investigating reliability and End Of Life strategies alongside the overheads which are required to operate the turbine for the period after the FITs stop as they currently make up two thirds of the income and electricity prices are continuing to fall. He continued that HEL think they have found a way to reduce operational costs and they should still be able to support the trust as it stands after the bank loan ends in three years.

### 9. LEGACY PROJECT presented by Brian Clegg

HEM SCIO manages the Legacy Project on behalf of the Trust. Brian informed the board that fifteen properties had been identified and targeted for installations this season. With help from IoHDT's Community Fund there was enough funding held to install ten, however the twelfth install was about to begin due to help received from local builders and contractors including digging, installation of solar trays etc though there is not enough cable to complete the twelfth one at the moment. The search for funding is underway, however eleven systems will be fully active and these cover a number of Fuel Poverty cases. One install has been done at Jimmy Sinclair's home in Rackwick (Jimmy had given permission for his case to be discussed) he previously had no power in his home and now has 240v electricity. He is absolutely delighted and very grateful. Brian added how nice it is to be able to see the direct benefit and difference being made for people within our community. He noted that an application for £20k had been submitted to SSEN and was awaiting a decision.

### 10. CORRESPONDANCE presented by All

An email from Gavin Lindsay had been circulated to the board prior to the meeting with a proposal from the Swedish Defence University regarding the YM which is annexed to the minutes. Keith explained the idea in more detail for board members consideration – the Swedish Defence university is looking to create a field school to be used as part of an annual training package they hope to provide, starting in May 25 which would require accommodation, kitchen and bathroom facilities along with storage of equipment between courses. This could be a potential revenue stream for the YM. A whole board discussion took place regarding fire prevention, insurances, increases in energy costs, change of use and lack of bathroom/shower facilities on site. However, all agreed it was a very interesting idea and that there were various options to be explored. Keith advised he was happy to coordinate with Gavin and Moira whilst YM Empower investigate and would report back to the board.

An email had been received about the Garage at the Old Custom House which had been circulated to the board ahead of the meeting and is annexed to the

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minutes. The email suggested that the Trust purchase the Old Custom House so that Mike Jenkinson can continue to use it as a Garage. Brian had spoken to Mike and confirmed that he does not know the man who sent the email and didn't expect the Trust to do this on his behalf. The board re-iterated in discussion that the Trust cannot be seen to support one business over others and that there are a number of mechanics on the island who seem to work alongside each other well. It was noted that the Old Custom House is in very poor shape and would be very expensive to improve, particularly as it is a listed building.

David at the Scapa Flow Museum had been in touch with Kieran requesting to borrow Wartime Heritage items from the Trust to copy. Kieran is to ask David to contact Keith about this.

### 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS presented by ALL

Kieran advised that academics from the James Hutton Institute would like to visit Hoy and speak to the board, Keith suggested that they hire the hall and hold a meeting where they share what they would like to do/fund etc. Kieran to go back to them.

Nici is to send the Action Items to Board via email.

Nici reminded the Board that the SOF for the Insurance need to be completed.

MEETING CLOSED AT: 20.59

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: To be Confirmed

WRITTEN BY: Nicola Budge  
Minute Secretary

PROPOSED FOR ADOPTION BY: MAX COLLOP

SECONDED BY: BRIAN CLEGG

Signed  
(Chair)

S. D. Jaques