

GREAT GLEN ENERGY CO-OP

Minutes of a Board meeting held at 5.30 pm on Tuesday 18th September 2012
At Wester Altourie, Abriachan, by Inverness

Immediately prior to the meeting, Jim Barr, Chairman of the Abriachan Forest Trust, gave a brief presentation outlining the details of the proposed renewable energy heating system for the Forest School classroom extension. The extension to be used for study areas with kitchen and toilet facilities and also to provide improved amenities for the AFT school programme. Jim summarised the aims and objectives of the AFT which centred around conservation, social issues and education. The wide ranging and well established education programme was directed at two main groups. People of all ages who had slipped from mainstream society for a variety of reasons and school groups from primary to senior looking to enhance their educational experience through eco projects utilising the AFT facilities both outdoors and classroom based. The purpose of the presentation was to explain the proposed renewable heating system to the GGEC directors.

Present : Directors :- Graham Strachan – Chairman (GS)
Ian Whyte (IW)
Kenneth Knott (KK)
Lorna Lumsden(LL)
In attendance Jim Barr (Abriachan Forest Trust)
Apologies:- Felix Patterson

1. **Welcome.** The Chairman thanked Jim Barr for his presentation and welcomed the directors.
2. **The Minutes** of the meeting held on 19th June 2012 were approved and accepted as a true record, proposed by IW and seconded by LL.
3. **Matters Arising** There were no matters arising which could not be dealt with on the Agenda. It was resolved to raise the issue of a site visit to the wind farm at the next AGM.
4. **Financial Review.** It was agreed to retain the existing budget format and GS would circulate the annual review with any necessary minor amendments to the current budget.
5. **Risk Analysis.** The Directors noted their responsibility to consider risk on an ongoing basis but considering all known factors felt that there were no immediate issues of concern.
6. **Community Fund.** Funds available to disburse to local projects - £6816.30. This project was acceptable to E4A. It was agreed to donate £5000, being c25% of the projected project cost, to the AFT renewable heating project, subject to conditions as follows :-
 - To request free use of the premises for one meeting per year for GGEC
 - Funds to be ring fenced till actually required for payment of bills
 - All relevant statutory permissions to be in place and confirmed
 - A 2 year clawback period during which time, should the AFT dispose of the equipment as a consequence of the project not working out as anticipated for whatever reason, 25% value of any equipment sold should revert to GGEC.
 - Funds will be issued once such agreement is signed by both parties.
 - GGEC support to be acknowledged on site and credited in publicity material.GS to write to AFT with the offer and attached conditions.

It was noted that the sum of £1816.30 would remain available to support other projects or perhaps be directed to a celebratory event to mark fifth anniversary of the Co-op. Various options were discussed but no firm conclusion was reached.

Note : LL declared an interest (as a Director/ Trustee of AFT) and took no part in the voting process.

7. Share Transfer Policy. GS will circulate a more fine tuned policy statement but it was recognised that there remained some outstanding issues to resolve, mainly finalising approval mechanisms for differing transfer request situations. All current requests were approved by the Board. It was noted that there was a need to maintain regular scrutiny of membership numbers and profiles. The policy would require to be reviewed on a continuous basis. KK felt this should be an annual review. Policy, once finalised, to be placed on the website.

8. Group Discount Scheme. IW had undertaken considerable research into the options available. Two companies - Good Electricity and Ecotricity - were the most positive but both potential schemes had drawbacks. The Directors discussed the options at length and resolved to consider further in the future, noting that the complexities involved in setting up a scheme versus a possibly limited uptake might render the concept unworkable.

9. AGM 2013. The Kingsmills Hotel has been booked and paid for, for April 2013. It may be that the surplus funds from the community fund be used for an enhanced AGM but there was perhaps slightly more support for a members day during the summer – possibly at Abriachan Forest Trust to view the project supported by the Co-op along with a forest tour and open air refreshments. Two from LL, GP & FP due to stand down at the next AGM, all being eligible for re-election. LL agreed to stand for re-election. Other nominations should be encouraged. IW will retire from the board at the AGM as he is relocating to Cornwall. GS to check re-election criteria with E4A.

10. Production Performance. August wind averaged 95% of budget. September, to date, had exceeded budget by 25%. There was an element of grid outage in August for which the GGEC will presumably receive statutory compensation.

11. AOCB. GS offered, subject to time, to draft a newsletter for early in the new year.

12. Dates for future meetings 19th February 2013 and AGM 16th April 2013.

The meeting closed at 7pm.


19th February 2013