



Directors/Trustees Meeting Thursday 25 August 2022

Present

Jill Patrick, Gavin Fleming, Stuart Ogg, Mari Jackson, Jon Park, Geoff Peart, Steve Barnet, Gill Bell, Crawford Gordon.

Apologies

Douglas Johnston

1. Declarations of interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Thursday 19 May 2022 were adopted as a true record of the meeting having been circulated immediately after the meeting for review and comment.

3. Follow up actions (Ongoing actions)

All actions from previous meetings completed other than the following ones which are ongoing. Some actions have been updated following discussion at this meeting:

- SB and JP will continue to review GDPR statement. SB has now accessed other statements to see how these relate to GCT version.
- GP reported that there had been a further unsuccessful bid to Improving Public Access fund for Beeches path and would now need to seek alternative funding.

4. Company Secretary Report

GB reported that all emails dealt with, a number having been forwarded to trustees; Lottery licence had now been renewed and will be in force until end of December 2022 when it will have to be renewed; and director/trustee contact details list needs to be updated.

Action: SO to arrange update of contact details list.

GB explained recent correspondence re: new Windfarm proposals. GP noted that he had met with the windfarm developers PR company. Planning application had now been called in by Scottish Government. Community Council had undertaken an analysis of the project with two main concerns having been identified: the height of the turbines and the impact on the skyline. Meeting being arranged by developer's representatives in Kippen on 21 September. Current timeline suggests that any additional community benefit will not flow until at least 2026/27 should project go ahead.

5. Treasurers Report

GF updated the current financial management position. Accounts and audit will be complete by AGM.

DJ and GF met RBS and all accounts now closed other than credit card account which DJ retains. It is expected that this will only be required for irregular one-off payments, most other transactions are now covered by online banking through Barclays. DJ and GF had also met with Barclays to complete arrangements for paperless process.

GF explained current position of each account. Main changes to community centre account were catching up with backlog of payments. He anticipates a £2500/£3000 deficit at year end and an expected increase in energy costs. JP looking at pricing with Debbie Mason. Some positive impact on energy costs projected from installation of solar panels and other energy measures currently being progressed by DJ.

Major shift in Trust (main) account due to Sustrans funded payment to consultants working on Gargunnoch to Stirling path development project. This had been an 'in' and 'out' payment, the deficit only showing because of the timing of payments.

The Community Centre Projects account shows a surplus for fiscal year. Follow up discussion focused on the use of the sinking fund. It was agreed that further work was required to explain how this fund had been utilised and how this matched the details set out in the original application approved by the Windfarm Fund Panel.

Action GF and DJ to set out how sinking fund had been allocated over initial three years and compare with details set out in the original Windfarm Fund application.

Windfarm Fund has a surplus of £4,400 at year end. GF noted that he had worked with Jackie Campbell to revise the Windfarm Fund tracker so there was now just one version. They expected that this would work more effectively. March 2022 year-end report had been submitted to Foundation Scotland.

Village Shop update

DJ had circulated a report prior to the meeting which provided an updated position statement regarding the shop.

6. Community Centre

DJ's report provided an outline of the current position regarding applications for funding for energy efficiency projects. Further it was noted that although an approach had been made to the developers of the proposed solar farm to see if they would help with the Community Centre project, however nothing had come of it possibly because new developers were now involved. At this stage it appeared that there would be no community benefit to be derived from the solar farm project.

DJ's report highlighted the application that had been submitted for funding for all the energy efficiency works including the solar panels, LED lighting and insulation. Potentially this will require to be topped up through a Windfarm Fund application. So far, the only cost has been £500 for the planning application.

JP and Debbie Mason have been reviewing the pricing structure for community centre hires. A simpler mechanism was being proposed. Following discussion, the principle of introducing a simpler pricing structure was agreed.

Action: JP to continue to work with Debbie Mason on a revised pricing structure.

Further it was agreed to refine the wording on the booking form which referenced the cleaning costs. This would ensure any additional cleaning required would be funded by the hirer. Another issue was whether the Blue Room should be included in any hire of the Garden Room or Main Hall given the accessibility issues, including the need to access the store room off the Blue Room by other room users.

Thanks were expressed to JP and Debbie for taking on the review and making progress.

GF raised the issue of the future of the Drop-In Centre and presented some draft drawings of possible internal arrangements to create a more flexible space. These included the introduction of additional car parking on the ground next to the Drop-In Centre and a new crossing from the pavement on the north side of Leckie Road. He explained that he had been in contact with the Council's Roads and Planning Departments to assess the feasibility of the outline proposals. The response had been positive. Proposals will be shared with the Shop Group to highlight this as a possible alternative location should it be required.

It was agreed that it was important to emphasise these designs were very draft at this stage however they would be helpful in thinking about the long-term use of the Drop-In Centre.

Action:

DJ to take designs to Shop Group.

GF to engage neighbours and pub to explain the draft contingent status of the proposals.

7. Projects Update

Gargunock to Stirling path

GP indicated that the positive news was that Sustrans had approved the next two phases of this project. A schedule of deliverables and associated costs to be available by 1 September. Next phase is for consultants to produce detailed design specifications for the project. Still requires full endorsement by affected farmers but both estates have now agreed.

Efforts made to engage the Council in the project as it will require them to be involved, however, due to staffing shortages no support has yet been offered.

Political engagement continues. David King had been on the paths group and had been taking forward this aspect of the project. As he is leaving, someone else is required to take on his role. GP to follow up.

Action GP to follow up possible contact to join the Paths Group to help with political engagement.

Meeting has been arranged with local Councillor for next week to garner Council support at a political level, for the project. This will be required as 30% of the final costs of the project has to be found from sources other than Sustrans. Currently full project costs expected to be in the region of £5m.

Sustrans funding may be conditional on engaging with defined characteristics' groups. This might be achieved through the Stirling Access Panel.

Beeches path

As noted earlier a further application for Improved Personal Access funding failed. GP no longer able to take forward this project due to time commitment required for Gargunnoch/Stirling link.

Action: SO to take forward an application to Ian Finlay fund for Beeches Path. GP to provide SO with copy of earlier report.

Watson House and Ladies Walk

These routes to be taken forward when resources allow.

Charlies Loan

Seat still to be installed

Hill path

Consultant appointed to undertake survey work has yet to report on their findings, still requires to tie in link past Knock O Ronald Farm. Once report is in its final stage, consultation with landowners and other stakeholders will take place.

Glebe Park

Following correspondence from Barbara Linklater, it was agreed that CG and SO would arrange a meeting with interested parties to consider the possibility of erecting a shed to house equipment needed by the Bee and Pond Groups.

Action: SO and CG to arrange meeting with interested parties to discuss need for equipment shed.

8. Newsletter

JP explained that he is delaying getting the next edition of the Bugle printed so that the outcome of the Gargunock Flower show can be featured.

He also noted that the existing printer had ceased operations. Alternative company identified, using previous contact, they have offered to print at same cost as previous one. He checked local company but they were 25% more expensive.

JP highlighted that Louise Crawford has offered to compile the Bugle in future with support from her mother. After discussion it was agreed that a fee of £100 per edition would be paid.

JP agreed to help transition to Lousie.

Action: JP to follow up with Louise Crawford.

9. AOB

Local transport project

SO highlighted the correspondence from Jane Bain regarding community transport. The Trust felt it was an idea worth researching further, however, given the level of commitment needed to take forward existing projects there was no spare capacity amongst the trustees to take it forward. However, it was agreed that should someone else like to develop the idea then the Trust would offer what support it could.

Action: SO to respond to Jane.

Windfarm Fund Panel membership

SO noted that there had been two nominees for the Windfarm Panel membership.

Action: SO to discuss with Alison Younger.

E-mail addresses - JP queried need for various email addresses given the annual cost. One possible reason for retaining them was to ensure they were not used by any other entity.

AGM

It was agreed that relevant trustees would present their elements of the trust's work at the AGM. It was also agreed that the membership list should be updated as it may be useful to encourage attendance at the AGM.

Action: JP to update membership list with help from MJ

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

10. Date of next meeting

25 October 2022 (AGM)

11. *Future Trust meeting dates*

8 December 2022

12. Windfarm Fund Panel future meeting dates

Monday 3 October 2022