



Minutes of Fifth Annual General Meeting of The T-Exchange

Friday 17th February 2017 at 7.30pm

Findhorn Village Centre – Garden Room

Bill Graham, Chairman, opened the meeting by welcoming members to the Fifth AGM of The T-Exchange.

1 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Brian Stewart.

2 Secretary – Minutes of previous AGM

The Minutes of the previous meeting were outlined, with especial reference to SCIO document preparation. The Chairman confirmed that the draft documents had been passed to Sylvia James, Community Support Officer, for advice, but he would deal with this matter in detail later on. **Richard Oakley proposed that the previous Minutes be accepted and Richard Allen seconded this.**

3 Chairman's report

2016 had generally been a successful year, but a little quieter than the previous years. There were currently twenty-four fully paid-up members. Some members had left, new ones had joined, but it was good to see that the numbers of juniors had increased.

Richard Oakley and Harry Younie had started teaching basic electronics skills during the year and it was planned to introduce a focus table on the use of the Python programming language.

A Filastruder kit for producing recycled plastic had been purchased and Les Grosvenor was leading a team build, which was well under way. Les said that this might be ready by the next meeting.

The Chairman said that the restored Omni 3D Printer had been working for some while and he passed around components printed from PET filament recycled from lemonade bottles to illustrate progress.

The 2016 public programme had been extensive and had included events such as the Inverness and Orkney Science Festivals, and the Ingenuity Fair in Forres. As a result of

our participation in the Forres 'Project Arts', there was now a wooden sheep named Feedback , decorated with 3D printed flowers, on display in the Forres Tolbooth foyer.

The STEAMIE continued to meet successfully each month and had some new members.

It was felt that these public events should continue in future. **Les Grosvenor proposed acceptance of the report and Richard Oakley seconded.**

4 Treasurer's report

Bill briefly explained to the meeting the fact that Tom McCallum had to resign as Treasurer during the year because of other commitments. Richard Oakley had taken over as Acting Treasurer and had completed the Accounts for 2016. Richard submitted the accounts for the year and expanded on the main elements. Les Grosvenor enquired about the significance of the mention of Pay Pal income in the Accounts. Bill explained that it had been necessary to open a Pay Pal account some two years previously for one specific event we had held. The account remained open but was currently idle.

Ian Hampson enquired about a large cash expenditure mentioned and Les explained that this had been the payment, approximately £600, for the Filostruder kit and Bill added that the other component of £180 had been used to purchase a second-hand laptop for the Mendel90 3D printer. At this point Bill explained to the meeting, for the benefit of anyone who had not been involved, about the detail of the pilot project to recycle plastics for 3D printers in conjunction with Re-Boot of Forres who had large quantities of ABS plastic scrap.

Richard Allen asked why depreciation was not indicated anywhere and Richard Oakley explained that this was included in the asset register account. Depreciation was calculated at 30% per year and assets were written off when they reached £50.

Les Grosvenor proposed accepting the Accounts as shown. Andrew Drummond seconded him.

5 SCIO Constitution

Bill explained to the meeting the sound financial reasons for applying for The T-Exchange to become a registered Scottish Charity, explaining that Moray Council had said that there was a good chance that such an application would be successful given the organisation's track record of charitable activity to date. The proposed draft constitution had previously been circulated to all members and there had been no dissent/comment. In order for such an application to go forward it was necessary for the membership to vote on two Motions which would be recorded in the Minutes. The Chairman read each of these Motions aloud to the meeting, prior to asking members for agreement.

Motion 1 – The membership agrees to submit an application to the Scottish Charity Regulator for registration as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

The Chairman Bill Graham proposed acceptance of this Motion and Les Grosvenor seconded. The proposal was approved by all members.

Motion 2 – On acceptance of the registration in Motion 1, the membership agrees to bring into effect the revised constitution as previously presented to the members and referred to as the SCIO Constitution.

The members named in the Application as willing to be the initial Trustees were:

Mark Dammer
Howie Firth
Bill Graham
Pam Graham
Claire Griffiths
Les Grosvenor
Richard Oakley

The Chairman Bill Graham proposed acceptance of Motion 2 and this was seconded by Richard Allen and supported by all members.

There was one query asking why The T-Exchange should have been referred to as the Moray Firth Maker Space as the questioner felt that it was not a maker space as it did not currently have a dedicated workspace. Bill explained that the organisation had been originally set up as a maker space and that it was felt that it was important to retain this designation as we were aiming for our own workspace and we were indeed making items such as 3D printers and the plastic extruder as well as many other items.

6 Coordinating Group Membership

The Chairman said that the whole existing Coordinating Group was now resigning, as required, but were all willing to stand again. There being no other nominations put forward, **Howie Firth proposed that the whole Group should be re-elected *en bloc* and this was seconded by Carl Wilson. Co-opted members of the Working Group during the past year were Richard Oakley and Mark Dammer. Currently these were both acting members and required confirmation in their posts. Carl Wilson proposed Richard Oakley and Harry Younie seconded this. Les Grosvenor proposed Mark Dammer and Richard Oakley seconded this.**

7 Future programme

The following items were subsequently discussed.

1) Submission of the SCIO application would proceed as soon as possible.

2) Andrew Drummond had suggested that The T-Exchange consider the possibility of shared accommodation with Transition Town Forres. The Coordinating Group had previously spent a considerable amount of time looking at possible premises, including this one, but had found nothing suitable in the immediate area. However, this process would be renewed in the coming year.

Coordinating Group

3) The construction of the Filastruder would be completed, followed by testing using ABS provided by Re-Boot. It will be our aim to finished the multi-headed 3D printer, 'The Medusa Machine' ready for demonstration at the Orkney Science Festival in September.

Coordinating Group

4) The potential public programme for 2017 included the Strathpeffer Science Festival on Saturday 18th March; Inverness Science Festival on Saturday 29th April; Piping Hot Forres on Saturday 24th June, where George Goudsmit of AES had offered to share his company's tented accommodation; Orkney International Science Festival from 7th - 14th September; Forres Culture Day on Saturday 23rd September (to be confirmed). It had originally been intended to have a presence at the Moray Science Festival in Elgin, but this event had been cancelled by the organisers.

Coordinating Group

8 Any other business

The Chairman explained that if The T-Exchange does succeed in becoming a charity it would be legally required to keep a full record of members and it would be necessary for everyone to fill out the appropriate forms now available from The Treasurer.

It was proposed that the financial year should be realigned to fit with the calendar year, purely for convenience, especially with the AGM falling in January. **This was agreed by the meeting.**

Also, it was felt by the Coordinating Group that the current annual membership subscription of £5 was very low and that it would still represent good value if it was raised to £10 per annum. Because of the realignment of the accounting year, all members who paid their new annual subscription during the AGM would benefit from being excused the usual meeting charge of £3 and thus would only pay, effectively, £7 for their 2017 membership.