



**Action**

**Chair's Report** (paper circulated)

ME offered the Trust's grateful thanks to SS for his commitment and help over the years, and wished him a very happy retirement.

ME had little to add to his written report, apart from reiterating the need for Directors to support Board decisions even if they themselves did not necessarily agree.

**All**

**Secretary's Report**

JD reported that 68 members had re-joined to date (67 full and 1 associate). She gave the Board the list of those who had not yet re-joined and asked that Directors should mention this to them when they saw them.

**All**

SS asked whether the Trust members had to re-join annually: JD responded that this had been a "one-off" request because of the Land Reform Act's requirement that members must be eligible to vote.

**Treasurer's Report** (accounts circulated)

LM-B had been looking at the possibility of SDT earning interest on its funds but had not yet found a suitable provider. He pointed out that when we became a charity, we would be able to earn a comparatively generous interest rate. He asked, meantime, that Directors should pass on to him any suggestions: IC said that he thought RBS had special interest rates for organisations which were not necessarily charities. LM-B will investigate this.

**LM-B**

JD raised the issue of income from the Hydrogen Day: WC thought that the £485 from HIE Orkney might not yet have been received. LM-B will check this.

**LM-B**

It was also pointed out that £411 income from this event was showing twice.

**LM-B**

ME asked LM-B to ensure that the cheque for £910 for the Food Hygiene course was included in the accounts: there is still a deficit of £840 showing.

**LM-B**

ME requested LM-B to pursue the "top-up" from OCPP of £2500, which should have been paid by now.

**LM-B**

SF handed LM-B £314.76 from the Limpet. The Board congratulated Yvonne and Heather on their contribution.

**LM-B**

**LDO's Report**

WC reported that there was a good chance that the **Community Wind Turbine** could be sited at Rothiesholm. John Holloway was currently conducting a bird survey at the site on behalf of the Trust, and WC was obtaining an Environmental Impact Assessment from OIC. He had a list of signatures totalling 190 for the turbine and less than 20 against, and handed ES the list of people who needed to be approached by the Renewables Sub-group.

**ES**

## Action

WC had submitted an application to Awards for All for £7500 for the **Recreation Ground**. Although he knew they had received it, he had not yet had a response. In addition, he would be writing to Clark Thomson following an offer of £50-100 for this project. He had received a cheque from the Co-op for £500 (which he handed to LM-B) for the project but they had requested some publicity. After some discussion about the timing of this, it was agreed that WC should go back to them and suggest that they wait until there was something interesting to say (e.g. "the first sod" being cut).

**WC**  
**LM-B**

**WC**

He will be attending a meeting on Monday re a **housing survey**. There was funding of £16,000 from HIE Orkney to cover the survey, and WC recommended that SDT should ensure that this covers the employment of someone to do the survey (600 hours at £6.50 per hour).

There was to be an **latE meeting** on 30 April. LDOs and local agency staff would be attending, and WC was willing to break his holiday to be there.

**DTAS Conference** would be in June, and WC recommended that we should be represented. ME asked Directors to think about attendance and WC stressed that there was a need to book. The cost is £95 plus travel.

**All**

The issue of a **youth worker** was still being pursued, in conjunction with Margaret Deerness.

**WC**

ME reported that there was a **Project Management Course** in Kirkwall run by HIE Orkney, and suggested that some of the new Directors might like to attend.

**All**

It was reported that Sanday's **broadband** had been increased to 8 MegaBytes. ME had already started investigating this issue and would continue to do so.

**ME**

JD asked WC whether he had progressed his need for a filing cabinet: after discussion, it was agreed that JD should order a 4-drawer cabinet which SS recommended should not be the most basic model.

**JD**

### **Sub-group Reports**

**Renewables:** Now that the feasibility study had been done, WC stressed that there needed to be a public consultation meeting.

**ME/**  
**WC**

**Athenia Lifeboat** (report circulated): BC reported that the project could be in a position to progress funding within 2-3 months. ME asked BC whether he needed more help, in view of his continuing hard work on the project: BC responded that he would welcome help when things became busier but that he would like to thank Gillian Brown for all her help in preparing paperwork.

**Our Community (Recreation Ground):** JD had circulated JG's minutes of the meeting with Council house tenants held on 10 April with the Sub-group. Michelle Collinson and Heather Johnstone had challenged the accuracy of the minutes. It had been hard at the meeting to identify what the hard facts and concerns were: some had been dispelled but the real issue was that some people had changed their minds about wanting the facility. JD had been asked by Julie Andrew and Hazel Shearer to circulate a letter to the Board in response to the issues raised at the meeting.

JD had asked Michelle to copy a petition shown briefly at the meeting but, despite reminders, this had not been received. WC suggested that, if the tenants wanted a public meeting, they should call one themselves and we would be happy to attend.

LM-B suggested that we should ensure that all OIC procedures had been followed, and that the consultation process had been as thorough as possible. He was of the opinion that people are entitled to change their minds. JD responded that the OIC guidelines for the installation of play areas had been followed to the letter and, indeed, had been produced at the meeting to answer a query. She also assured him that consultation had been particularly thorough in Whitehall Village.

SS felt strongly about the following points:

- a letter published in a newspaper did not constitute a matter for negotiation and that this approach was wrong
- the original public meetings and consultations had already decided the way forward and therefore we should not retract those decisions
- he agreed that further negotiations should be conducted with the objectors but on the basis that the project will go forward and that we should involve them more so that future conflict could be avoided
- should this project not proceed, he warned that it was unlikely that OIC would provide funding for future projects particularly in view of the revenue cost implications. This would have been a "once for all" funding.
- he suggested that the bullying issue is a "red herring" (i.e. this is a problem that should continue to be addressed by parents and the school)
- the issue of parents "dumping" their children while they were in the pub is also a "red herring" – the pub is in the village and always will be – and this will happen whether there is a recreation ground or not

Summing up, SS was adamant that the project should go forward but that SDT must involve the disgruntled parties more. It was all about communication, and more involvement would alleviate the perceived "them and us" situation.

JC suggested that more landscaping etc. could be included. Although it was pointed out that the plan already included a pavilion, trees and flower beds, WC stressed that the funders would not tolerate any changes in the original plan.

JG stressed that it was essential to monitor the area, together with the rest of the community, to help address the issues of bullying, rubbish, etc. This was agreed.

**Action**

At this point, ME addressed the Board and asked whether it felt that the project should go forward. It was unanimously agreed that it should, and that a further meeting should take place as soon as possible with the tenants to inform them of the position.

**ME**

### **The Limpet**

SF had been asked by Yvonne and Heather to bring a request to the Board that they purchase a new printer to do the colour pages of the Limpet. There was a discussion about the practicality of buying a machine which would not be the workhorse they needed. ES suggested that, if the current printer was not up to the job, they would need to buy a much more robust one at, probably, more than £200. ME suggested that they consult people producing similar material to get advice on what to buy, and SS agreed that an industrial workhorse was required for this sort of operation. SF will report back.

**SF**

### **Economic Development** (paper circulated)

IC asked the Board if they would agree, in principle, to an outline proposal to the Big Lottery to progress the idea of installing business units, flats and a Gateway House in Whitehall. WC stressed that we would need “ball park” costings before we could approach the lottery, together with business plans from anyone who would be likely to use the business units. SS recommended that we should incorporate a plan for 4 flats, not 2, and IC agreed that affordable housing was a current priority for all political parties. The Board agreed that an outline proposal should be brought back to it for final agreement.

**IC/  
WC**

### **Parish Development Fund Update**

JG reported that she had sent out invitations to a group of adults and youths to join the working group. A meeting was held on 7 April, attended by 4 adults but that this was during the Easter holidays. Her intention is now to try to get more youth input (e.g. a meeting with the Youth Club).

**JG**

### **Youth Worker**

Since this item had been discussed earlier, it was considered unnecessary.

### **The meeting broke at 9.25 and resumed at 9.30 p.m.**

### **Perceptions of SDT**

ME asked whether the Board had any ideas on how to improve the perceptions of SDT. He agreed that communication was vital but that this is a two-way process.

WC produced some details of a presentation by Gail Anderson of VAO (“10 Reasons to Sus it Out”), and suggested that this might help. Although the Board did not think that it would be totally relevant to this issue, it was agreed that WC should ask Gail to do the presentation on sustainability on 23 May.

**WC**

WC pointed out that the wind turbine survey was a great opportunity for networking with the community.

## Action

ME suggested that bar charts should be published in the Limpet showing progress with funding. IC thought that a regular insertion from sub-groups could be written for the Limpet. BC pointed out that there was progress on projects despite the fact that funding had not yet been applied for, and ME agreed that we could try to produce something to answer this.

JD suggested that we should produce a letters page in the Limpet, and it was agreed that this was a good idea. She also volunteered to produce a rota for sub-groups' contributions, but stressed that we needed to have something to say and not repeat "old news".

JD

JD

## Co-options for Community Involvement

ME asked whether there was urgency to this issue, and JD agreed to carry this forward.

JD

## Revised Development Plan (paper circulated)

JD had received valuable feedback from IC and JC, most of which had been incorporated into the draft plan. She stressed that there were two imperatives – the OSCR application (which could not go forward until the plan was approved), and information for the community. The draft plan was too detailed to go through at the meeting: however, she would circulate the new draft and made the following requests:

- please comment and fill in any gaps
- a small group should then expedite it
- the Board decides if anything of it goes into the Limpet, bearing in mind that many of the projects quoted have not yet been consulted and it would need to be about "doing" not "thinking about"
- there must be a decision on how the community is consulted on the plan

JC and CM volunteered to be part of the small group with JD.

JD

## Any Other Business

**Stronsay Singers:** BC, as a member of the singing group, reported that OIC had ceased funding travel and accommodation for their tutor. He asked the Board to agree to fund the travel expenses, stressing that the group would be providing accommodation and food at their own expense. After some discussion, it was agreed that the singing group should approach the Community Council first with hard figures, since it was thought that there was some funding available through them, and then come back to the Board if there was a funding gap.

BC

JD obtained agreement to order two box files and toners for the Limpet.

JD

**Date of next Meeting:** Wednesday, 16 May 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

**Meeting closed:** 10.34 p.m.