

# Stronsay Development Trust

Board Meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019, Conference room Woods Yard at 7.30pm

## **In attendance:**

Richard Seeber (RS)  
Mike Erdman (ME)  
Raymond Dennison (RD)  
Elsie Dennison (ED)  
Robert Askey (RA)  
Jamie Davidson (SD)  
Kevin Kent (KK)

## **Present:**

Anna Bliss-Davis (ABD)

### **1. Welcome and apologies —**

Apologies received from Susanne Davidson and Jim Seaton.

### **2. Agreement of past minutes**

RA asked that additional information be added to section 4 NILPS update to include a wider description of the discussion. This was added.

Proposed	ME	Seconded	ED	All in Favour	Yes
----------	----	----------	----	---------------	-----

### **3. Action points from last meeting.**

ABD to prepare information pack for prospective directors.

This was put on hold as we awaited information from SREL in order to be fully informed before inviting additional directors.

All board members asked to invite 2 members each to the upcoming AGM in order to engage the community and increase attendance.

### **4. SREL Update**

RS updated the board on behalf of SREL. The bank requirements had been met with a renegotiation on various agreements with the bank. The additional requirements from SDT were not needed but SREL would not be able to offer any finance for 2019 and would re evaluate in 2020. The board discussed the various payments between SREL and SDT in the past and the position SREL found themselves in due to external factors and concluded SDT needed to be more fully informed of the specifics of the Turbine activity in the future.

ME led a discussion on what information would be useful to SDT to enable them to recognise trends in activity and plan for the future.

The board agreed to put a formal request to SREL for

- regular and consistent reports on Turbine Output, Availability, and curtailment quarterly
- a general overview of expenditure to better understand the finance of SREL
- a plan for reporting to SDT any turbine breakdowns lasting 3 days and longer
- Immediate reporting of the main cable breakdown
- And sight of the Bank loan agreement

ABD would draft a formal request for ME as chair to agree with the full board support.

Proposed	KK	Seconded	RA	All in Favour	Yes
----------	----	----------	----	---------------	-----

## 5. AOB and end of Public Meeting.

ME proposed the board undergo a health check looking at the skills and areas needing development within the board in order to update the previous action plan.

Proposed	RS	Seconded	RD	All in Favour	Yes
----------	----	----------	----	---------------	-----

ABD would contact VAO/HIE for possible dates.

ED Left the meeting at 9.04pm

ABD updated the board on the current financial position of SDT the finances would need a full review every quarter. ABD recommended a number of financial reductions in order for the trust to retain reserve funds including working with various utility providers to ensure the best prices. Look at the current contracts in place including insurance, accountancy fees to make sure these were competitive with no unnecessary costings while always ensuring full legal cover.

ABD advised the board that one of the largest outgoings was the operational managers salary and recommended this be removed. ABD would step down at the end of the month in order to reduce costs. ABD assured the board that Policies and procedures had been put into place over the last 18 months to ensure the smooth running of the Trust and recommended the Trust retain current admin hours with Madeleine Martin to facilitate these moving forward. ABD informed the board she would volunteer operational hours over the coming months to ensure the smooth transition. ABD also recommended the board evaluate the admin hours quarterly and support the operations with any additional board training highlighted in the proposed health check action plan.

RA offered thanks to ABD for her honest appraisal and money saving suggestions in light of the personal implications. ME asked the board for full support of the suggested reductions.

Proposed	RS	Seconded	RA	All in Favour	Yes
----------	----	----------	----	---------------	-----

Development – ABD gave a brief update on the current development items including the wellbeing coordinators successful application to run a veg box and nutrition project across Stronsay. More details would be fed back to the board over the coming months as the full project details were confirmed.

Stage 1 of the Scottish land fund application had been successful and work was underway for stage 2 which would include purchase funds.

Further projects were under development and would require additional discussion in the future as well as community consultations planned for the weeks leading to and including the AGM.

No additional business so Public meeting ended 9.35pm