

Stronsay Development Trust

Annual General Meeting on 5 May 2011 in the Stronsay Community Centre at 19.30 Approved Minutes

Present: Julia Crocker (Chair) Nina Gleed Sara Goodram
Lisa De Geer (Secretary) Cora Goodram Anthony Withers
(CDO/TDO)

Apologies: Malcolm Addison (Treasurer), Mike Erdman, Juliet Durrant, Nigel Durrant, Helen Garside (Director), Chessa Llewellyn-White (HIE), Marion Macleod, Damian Stout (Director), Yvonne Weaver (Director)

In Attendance: Gaynor Jones (Chief Executive of Voluntary Action Orkney)
Alan Long (Accountant from the Long Partnership)
15 Members of the Trust

Welcome by Chair

Julia Crocker welcomed everybody and thanked them for attending. A special welcome was given to Alan Long, accountant from the Long Partnership, and Gaynor Jones from VAO.

Julia Crocker reminded the audience that only members of the Trust can approve minutes, accounts etc., but welcomed questions and comments from all.

Annual Report

Julia Crocker introduced briefly the annual report and the activity during the year. She gave personal thanks to Marion Macleod, Simone Kirk, Jenny Stone, Anthony Withers and Malcolm Addison for all work they have done over the year.

Information was given about the good news that Graham Sinclair from OIC has told the Trust that capacity funding will be available this year

Julia Crocker also informed the meeting that the Orkney Science Festival at the beginning of September this year have planned several events on Stronsay.

Questions and comments that arose about the Annual Report:

1. Brian Crowe commented on how well produced the Annual Report is.
2. The dates when Michael Erdman resigned from the trust board differs between the minutes and the annual report. It was confirmed that Mr. Erdman resigned at the previous AGM, 13 May 2010.
3. The Annual Report ends with a wish list of possible projects for the future. On this list is a Youth Centre. Concerns were raised that this could compete with the already existing Youth Club on Fridays at the Community Centre. Assurance was given that this is not the intention, and all ideas will be shared with the Community Association. Cynthia Hockley suggested that the Trust and the Community Association should work together on this issue.

4. Julia Crocker explained that there will be further discussion about the wish list.
5. Leo Martini-Brown thanked the chair, Julia Crocker, for all the work she has done, and expressed his wish that a vice chair ought to be elected. Information was given that the post is currently vacant since the previous vice chair resigned during the year, and a vice chair will be elected on the first board meeting after the AGM.
6. Leo Martini-Brown pointed out that it is not mentioned in the annual report that legal advice has been sought about the Enterprise Zone, even though he as a neighbour to the proposed site has made a complaint about legal matters. Julia Crocker answered that legal advice has been sought, and asked Mr. Martini-Brown to talk with her after the meeting about his personal issues.
7. Ian Hockley asked the board for an advertised public meeting in the Community Centre about the Enterprise Zone and other perceived discrepancies. The subject will be brought up on the next board meeting.
8. A discussion about the venue of the monthly board meetings was held. Members of the trust disapprove of meetings being held in private homes, and think that all meetings should be held in community venues. The members also questioned why the board has minuted that the expense for the Community Centre is a problem. Julia Crocker explained that not all meetings have been held in the Hall since there have been short notice cancellations and difficulties with transportation. The question about the Community Centre being too expensive wasn't resolved. The subject will be on the agenda for the next board meeting.

Adoption of the Annual Report 09/10

Julia Crocker asked the membership to accept the annual report, Karen Griffin proposed and Cora Goodram seconded. All members were in favour and the annual report was adopted.

Some members wanted to minute that the chapter about the future has not yet been decided. Gaynor Jones (VAO) explained that there is no need for that since this is the customary way to end an annual report and that as a forward look, it does not constitute an agreed plan that we shall be accountable for.

Approval of Minutes for AGM 13 May 2010

The chair invited questions and asked if the meeting would propose that the minutes of the last AGM were accurate. Leo Martini-Brown proposed and Nina Gleed seconded. Everyone was in favour and the minutes were accepted.

Adoption of the Annual Accounts for the period 1 Sept 2009 to 31 Aug 2010

The chair explained that a summary of the accounts are included in the annual report, and that full copies were available. Further copies can be obtained from the Secretary on request.

The chair handed over the meeting to accountant Alan Long to give an overview of the accounts. He gave a short explanation of the accounts and drew attention to the financial relations between SDT and SREL, its trading subsidiary. He stressed the importance of looking at the future with the turbine, and not to dwell in improving small details when bigger issues needs to be dealt with. Progress, not perfection.

Julia Crocker informed that the trust will get help form Highland and Islands Enterprises (HIE) and VAO to set up criteria on how to allocate the money the wind turbine will generate.

Questions and comments on the accounts:

1. Alan Long explained that due to legal requirements, the lottery grant has been given to SDT who then lends the money to SREL. This is customary practise.
2. It was confirmed that Alan Long is the accountant of both SDT and SREL.
3. Question arose if the members of SDT could be share holders of SREL. Alan Long explained that would not be advisable because of tax reasons. If SDT, being a charity, owns 100% of SREL there is no tax on money going from SREL to SDT.
4. Information was given that the income to SREL, i.e. payment for the power could be coming from several companies. SREL will start up with a fixed rate during the first 5 years.
5. The members asked what will happen after 15-20 years when the turbine is not running any longer and if there will be any reinvestment. The chair confirmed that this is most likely.
6. The current turbines are not working all the time and the public were concerned about the income from the SREL turbine not being sufficient. Anthony Withers explained that the calculations made are based on an efficiency of 52%. After the initial 2-3 years the situation will be improved since the grid over the Pentland Firth will be improved.

The membership asked to have minuted that Alan Long made a brilliant presentation that made figures and numbers understandable.

The chair asked the members if they were content to adopt the accounts, Leo Martini-Brown proposed and Brian Crowe seconded. There being no counter proposal, the accounts were adopted.

Consideration of the Long Partnership for re-appointment as accountants

The board recommended that the members agree that the trust re-appoints the Long Partnership, Chartered accountants of Kirkwall, as independent examiner for the next financial year. Brian Crowe proposed and Andrew Rose seconded. All were in favour and the motion was carried.

Presentation of the Wind Turbine Project

Julia Crocker showed some photos on the progress towards getting a Stronsay Community Wind Turbine built.

Appointment of Directors

The chair announced that Mr. Damian Stout had resigned after serving the board for four years, and thanked him for his work for the trust. Julia Crocker explained that, according to the M&As, 2 Directors needed to step down this year making a total of 8 vacancies.

Standing for re-election this year was:

- Mrs. Cora Goodram

One Director, appointed by the board during the year, and now standing for election was:

- Mrs. Helen Garside

There were also two nominees:

- Mrs. Karen Griffin

- Mrs. Yvonne Weaver

Julia Crocker explained that each member had four votes, although not all votes had to be used. Members used their voting papers and placed them in the box provided.

Break for tea and cakes

Ann-Maree Carter had supplied a lovely spread of tea, coffee, sandwiches and biscuits.

The chair announced that the votes had been counted, and all the above named had been elected to the board.

On behalf of everyone, Julia Crocker thanked the members for voting.

The meeting closed at 21.15, and everyone was invited to stay to finish the tea.