

Minutes
of a
Management Meeting
of the
Shetland Community Benefit Fund Limited

held at the offices of VOS, Harbour Street, Lerwick on
5th June 2019

Present: Mr C Bunyan (chair), Mr Alan Ockendon, Mr Kenny Pottinger, Mr Hubert Hunter, Mr Alan MacDonald, Mr James Garrick, Mr Gordon Thomson, Mr Laurence Odie, Ms Angela Sutherland, Mr Arwed Wenger

In attendance: Mr Alistair Laurenson, observer Nesting & Lunnasting
Mr Ian Walterson, observer Sandness & Walls
Mr Bill McReady, observer Delting
Ms Louise McQuade, observer Skerries

Apologies: Mr Gary Laurenson, Mr John Dally, Mr Neville Martin

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the Management meeting of 22nd May 2019 were distributed and approved, proposed by Mr MacDonald, 2nd Mr Hunter. It was noted that Mr Fordyce's Christian name is Patrick, not Peter.

Directors

Ms Linda Coutts has resigned as a Director. Yell CC has nominated Mr Laurence Odie and he was elected to the management committee proposed by Mr Bunyan, 2nd Mr Thomson.

Chair's report and response to Heads of Terms

Mr Bunyan read through and expanded on, his Chairman's report in the agenda. He was still hoping a new bank account would be opened and the meeting agreed the signatories should be the three office bearers.

He and Mr Wenger had been at a Lerwick CC meeting on Monday at which there was a good discussion on the HoTs, but no objections.

Mr Ockendon reported the same at meeting of the GQCCC the previous evening, adding the members wanted the HoT signed as soon as possible.

Ms Sutherland said the TWWCC had also discussed it, and had no objections, but wished to ask if the words "up to" before "10%" could be removed in the HoTs.

Other CCs have yet to meet or have yet to comment, but members reported no significant issues have emerged so far. It was noted that to date there has been no response from the ASCC for a meeting.

SCBF Rules

It was noted that the Rules had been written a long time ago, before there was any firm prospect of VE going ahead, and some things may not have been precisely followed over the years, but now the Rules urgently needed to be reviewed. Mr Bunyan had already spoken to Wendy Hand of VAS and proposed to contact Rachel Mbullu of Foundation Scotland who had experience of this sort of thing, to ask if they could assist in a review.

It was noted that as things stand, all Directors ought to be re-appointed annually on nomination by their CCs, and that they should all have paid £1 as an initial membership fee. All who had not done so yet are to make this contribution at the next meeting.

Current rules state the nomination of all directors must be confirmed or not each year by community councils. There was a discussion on how this might disrupt continuity in the committee's work if there was a large change each year.

It was suggested that a three or five year term of appointment might be preferable to annual re-election of the entire board.

SCBF aims and objectives

Mr Bunyan then introduced the subject of a framework to control disbursements and the need to form an overall plan as a matter of urgency. He referred to his note in the agenda on a meeting he had had with Wendy Hand in January 2016 during which "areas of support" were "identified and specified".

There followed a wide discussion, during which different approaches were suggested. It was finally agreed that SCBF would invite the individual CCs and individual members to submit ideas on overall criteria (not specific projects) by 10th July, for the Directors to consider at their next meeting. Mr Bunyan once more warned of the large amount of work potentially facing the SCBF, and noted that regular – perhaps monthly – meetings would be required for some time to come while necessary arrangements were being put in place.

Other commercial projects

Finally, the question of what was happening to community benefit arrangements with prospective wind farm bodies other than VE was discussed. It appears that the major Yell projects – Peel and Energy Isles – had been in discussion with local representatives for quite some time, with proposals to restrict benefit payments primarily to the North Isles, although nothing had been finalised.

No-one present knew what plans, if any, Peel had for the recently-approved Mossy Hill farm in central Shetland, and it was agreed that SCBF write to Peel to enquire about this and, if no arrangements have been made, request opening a discussion with SCBF about it.

Other business

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.