

Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust, Annual General Meeting held at 7pm 25th October 2016, Tarbert Village Hall Annexe

1. Apologies

Dr Douglas and Val Barker

2. Chairperson's Report

Intro

During this year our effort has been in 3 main directions:-

Setting the Trust up to deal with having a regular source of income from the various Windfarm funding that will start flowing in 2017

Advancing, with varying degrees of success, a number of local projects.

Completing the review and update of the Community Plan .

Putting the Trust on a more Business-like footing

Membership of Development Trust Association (DTA) – Late last year we had a presentation by the DTA who convinced us that, given our current need to take on extra responsibilities, we could benefit from their help and advice. Subsequently we have made considerable use of their services and expect to continue to do so.

Community Hub The purpose of the community hub is to provide the Trust with an office/meeting place/shop window. We have looked at a number of properties and narrowed it down to the old library building. We approached the council to enquire if it could be made available. However, after various meetings, correspondence etc to try and get the council to sell/lease/peppercorn rent it to us we have only just got a reply that says it might, at some time in the future, be made available! We are not holding our breath on this one!

Admin and Project Staffing – A small sub-committee have been looking into this. They have drawn up a job description and person specification. They are currently working with the DTA to find funding sources. If we cannot start to get some help once the full impact of the Windfarm money hits us then there is a danger that we may have to curtail some of our other activities in order to manage the funding and its distribution.

Disbursement of Community Benefit Funding. Shortly we will have 2 sources of income for distribution for community projects:-

- Income from our 1/12 share in the Srondoire Windfarm. In the early years this is likely to be for quite small amounts as we will be using our income to pay off the loan from the Scottish Government's Renewable Energy Investment Fund.
- Community Benefit Income from the Freasdail Windfarm which will amount to around £22,500 per annum.

Both funds have different criteria for distribution of the funds. We are currently finalising the arrangements to suit both funds.

New Website – This went live in the Summer and can be seen at www.tsct.org.uk

Making the Community Plan more relevant from now till 2021 – A review of the plan was started in August 2015 and completed in February 2016. It is now available to download on our new website www.tsct.org.uk . In future it will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis to ensure that it stays relevant.

Local Projects

Junior Gym – After the success of the Little Gym last year we have been in discussion THA about the addition of a junior gym for 7 to 12 yr olds. So far we have been unable to come to any agreement.

Circular walk via new West Loch Path/Cycleway to Kennacraig – Considerable work has been done on getting funding a walk from Carrick cemetery to the West Loch Shores as part of a 6 mile circular walk. Unfortunately this failed to happen on time. The plan has been revised to include a cycleway to Kennacraig and a bid made as part of the Council's regeneration fund. It was turned down but an appeal has been launched. There have also been meetings with Transport Scotland which is considering a footpath by the A83 to the West Loch which will fit the bill for the walk.

White Shore Path – As many of you will be aware this has been falling into disrepair for some time. This year the Trust found both the funding and willing volunteers to start the work on repairing and improving it. The bridge has now been replaced and further work is planned.

Skipness Community Bunkhouse – The trust found funding for a feasibility study and community consultation which showed that the bunkhouse idea could work. We are now in discussion with the Estate owner about their concerns of the impact of the bunkhouse and the issue of the poor local water supply.

Tarbert Heritage Project – This was developed as a partnership project THA, Tarbert Castle Trust and TSCT. Unfortunately, it failed to get Heritage Lottery funding so is now on the back burner.

Community Energy Purchasing. - We consulted with Community Energy Scotland earlier in the year and they were not particularly optimistic about what could be achieved by using community purchasing to reduce our fuel costs. Subsequently we received information from The Development Trust Association that they had a scheme for community buying of heating oil and business electricity. We are currently in discussion with them about using their scheme. They have not yet found a scheme which can benefit domestic electricity consumers nor have they yet tackled LPG suppliers. Nonetheless we may be able to use their off-the-shelf scheme to benefit domestic oil users and business electricity users in the area.

This has been a busy year where funding has become increasingly difficult yet we have managed some notable successes. It is to be hoped that next year, with the start of the wind farm funding that we will

3. Adoption of Minutes of 15th December 2015

The minutes were unanimously accepted as a true record of the meeting

4. Consideration of, and Resolution for the Adoption of the Statement of Accounts and Director's Report

Thanks were given to William Duncan & Co. who offer us a significant discount in our governance fees.

All members on e mail receive an e mail copy of the accounts and they are also available in Skipness Post Office, Tarbert Library and in William Duncan and Co three weeks prior to the AGM. All other members receive an income and expenditure sheet alongside the notice of the AGM through the mail.

Iain Webster – Independent Examiner

TSCT accounts have been independently examined and our accounting year end date changed to 28th February.

There was £250 income and £3,900 in payments.

Governance Fees were approximately £1,700

Money has been brought forward from restricted funds in previous years.

Some of this has been loaned to TSR Ltd and will be repaid once we receive an income from our windfarm investment.

The Statement of accounts was accepted as a true record.

Proposed : Robert McPhail

Seconded: Alan MacDonald

5. Review of Annual subscription

The annual subscription will remain unchanged

6. Proposal to Appoint Financial Examiners/Auditors

William Duncan and Co are appointed as Financial Examiners/Auditors,

Proposed: Alan MacDonald

Seconded: Alison McBride

7. Election of Directors

Prior to the AGM no directors indicated they wished to retire.

Anne Horn and Jim Curnyn have completed five years as a director and retired. Both agreed to be co-opted for a further term.

As required all remaining directors retired and all stood for office again.

Gwyn Abernethy was nominated as a director.

Proposal to adopt all existing Directors who wish to stand and the additional nomination:

Proposed: Jenny Carlile

Seconded: Anne Horn

Directors 2016-17: Alex Horn-Treasurer, Jane Cowen-Secretary, Bob Chicken, Ali McBride, Robert McPhail, Neil MacCallum, Alan MacDonald, Neil McKnight, Sheila Campbell.

Co-opted Directors Gwyn Abernethy and Jim Curnyn

There remain 2 spaces for directors and 1 space for a co-opted director.

8. Any Other Business

Tarbert and Skipness Renewables Ltd report to AGM

Background

Tarbert and Skipness Renewables Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust. It was formed in November 2014 for the sole purpose of forming a company to buy and manage a 1/12 share in the Srondoire Windfarm on behalf of the Trust.

Subsequently we purchased our share in Srondoire at a cost of £170k using a loan from the Scottish Government's Renewable Energy Investment Fund. At the time this was expected to achieve somewhere between £700k and £900k.

The Windfarm was given planning permission in July 2014 and started producing electricity in November 2015. It was completed on budget and on time.

1st Year's Production.

We have not seen the 1st year's figures yet but are told that they are above expectation -which is good news.

There are some issues which are starting to get in the way of progress: -

- Energy prices have been exceptionally volatile for the last year or two but the long-term outlook is still good and our latest forecast still shows that Srondoire will produce around £700k.
- The Scottish Government enacted legislation to allow rates relief on community windfarms but it didn't include the Srondoire/Allt Dearg, shared ownership model. As a result, we will undoubtedly lose money. The Scottish Government is embarrassed by this error and wants to find a solution. Srondoire Wind Farmers and the communities involved have been in discussion with them about compensation to the community owners for any loss suffered as a result of our projects not qualifying as "community" projects under last April's flawed, partial

- non-domestic rates relief scheme. We believe that compensation for the community partners is likely to be forthcoming very soon
- Unfortunately, the rumour is that the further, 'drastic' rises in rates for windfarms are likely to happen in future and, if enacted, do not bode well for future profitability.

As a result of these issues Srondoire Windfarmers have been reluctant to release the first dividend until they better understand how these issues will affect profitability.

Our current forecasts still show the scheme bringing in around £700k to be invested in the area over the next 20 years.

Bob Chicken
October 2016