



*From the community
For the community*

Rousay, Egilsay and Wyre Development Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee. Co. Reg. No: SC318527 Charity Reg. No: SC040407
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REWDT Annual General Meeting held via Zoom
Saturday 27th February 2021

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Trevor Barneveld, Eivor Cormack, Debbie Corrigan, Davey Farquhar, Laura French, Bobby Friel, Janet Friel, Marie Gallerneault, John Garson, Jean Gibbon, Jo Gray, Fiona Hanson, Steve Hanson, Ben Hicks, Mark Hull, Jo Inkster, Celia Knibbs, Catherine Kriisa, Carole Maguire, Paddy Maguire, Alice Mainland, Alison Mainland, Carey Mainland, Eric Mainland, Grant Mainland, Andrea McKee, Emma Melin, Bryan Milner, Julie Morgan, Howard Roberts, Ro Roberts, Frances Roebuck, Peter Roebuck, Eric Shortland, Denis Soames, Emma Soames, Murray Stewart, Doreen Taylor, Corinne Tipper, Fiona Tipper, Kayleigh Tipper, Richard Tipper, Carlyne Tunbridge.

In attendance: Gill Wigley (Project Manager), Ellie Roberts (Project Officer), Alice Foulds (Well-being Co-ordinator), Davie Campbell (Facilitator)

- 1 Welcome & Apologies for absence** were received from Callum Flaws, Sarah Foulds, Charlie Colthurst, Chris Cox & Greg Cox. John Garson (Chair) welcomed everyone to the AGM.
- 2 Minutes of 30th November 2019 AGM** were approved (Proposed: Carlyne Tunbridge, Seconded: Bobby Friel).
- 3 Minutes of 5th December 2020 EGM** were approved (Proposed: Janet Friel, Seconded: Julie Morgan).
- 4 Minutes of 30th January 2021 EGM** were approved (Proposed: Laura French, Seconded: Jo Inkster).

5 Matters arising

AGM 30 November 2019

AP1: Gill to arrange ASAP a meeting between the Craithub and the sub-group. **Discharged**

AP2: Gill to take the idea of either purchasing a flat in Kirkwall or helping with hotel fees for those stranded on the Mainland due to unforeseen circumstances to the next board meeting. **Discharged**

No Action Points from EGM 5th December 2020 or EGM 30th January 2021

Directors: Kayleigh Tipper; Carlyne Tunbridge; Callum Flaws; Sarah Foulds;
Carole Maguire; Alison Mainland; Peter Roebuck; Eric Shortland; Richard Tipper.

6. Annual Report on Projects

The Chair stated that the project report had been sent out to Members with the AGM information in the form of the Chair's Annual report, which details progression made with each of the projects and that there would be an opportunity to ask any question in the Q&A session towards the end of the meeting.

7. Financial Statement

The Vice-Chair presented a Financial Statement, which covered the latest accounts to 31st March 2020. The group accounts for REWDT, HSO & REWIRED are available to view and download on the REWDT website.

The Vice-Chair shared REWIRED's trading results and explained that REWIRED gifts REWDT some of the profit each year. The amount gifted is dependent on reserves needed by REWIRED and its bank, and is also agreed after taking advice from our accountants each year in order to mitigate the Corporation Tax liability. In the year ended March 2020, REWIRED gifted £222,000 to REWDT.

The Vice Chair gave an overview of HSO's trading results and explained that, as HSO is a relatively young project, there is an expectation of fluctuations in figures in the first few years, and it is better to review the trading results over a 3-5 year period for a more accurate reflection.

The Vice-Chair then gave an overview of REWDT's charity income and expenditure for the year ended March 2020, with comparative figures for the year ended March 2019. This included a breakdown of the staff costs (and projected costs for the current financial year), reporting that the net cost after offset of funding received has not increased greatly despite two significant new posts being created in the year ended March 2020. The analysis of expenditure included a breakdown of the grants awarded to individuals and community groups, including the current financial year to 31st December 2020. Grants awarded has reduced significantly compared to the year ended March 2019, this is predominantly due to the cessation of the Stone Chippings Scheme in 2019, and the effect of Covid-19 on travel, activities, and community events in the current financial year. Two new grant funds had been introduced in the year ended March 2020: Broadband & Child Ferry Tickets.

COVID related funding - it was reported that £70,000 of external funding had been secured in the current financial year by REWDT staff, for use within the community to assist with COVID-19 restrictions and recovery.

The total cash held in reserves was presented and it was noted that whilst we are in a strong financial position, we have major community projects which require funds this year. These include the Pier Restaurant building, which has been allocated initial funds for building/renovation work. In addition, as part of the grant funding secured for the Trumland purchase, there are sub-projects which need to be completed, including pathways and a Ranger service provision.

The Vice-Chair then concluded the presentation with a look to the future of REWDT and associated projects and finances. It was noted that strong financial management will be key going forwards, as we progress plans for The Pier Project and Trumland Estate Land. The Dementia Memory Morning Project, which REWDT had been awarded funding for but had been unable to progress due to COVID-19 restrictions, would hopefully progress as soon as restrictions allowed. Here2 Help and Crossroads provisions would be reviewed shortly, to ensure that REWDT fully understand current community needs and to assess future needs to assist with budgeting requirements, as these services currently cost REWDT in the region of £12,000 per year. Future plans for the development of the grants programme were shared, with REWDT planning to seek feedback from the community, from those who had used grants but also from those who haven't, to understand how REWDT can develop the grants programme and ensure that as many people as possible have the opportunity to benefit from it.

8. REWIRED Ltd (trading subsidiary) Report

Laura French, Turbine Manager, presented an update on the turbine production and reported that there had been no major issues this year. The well-reported sub-sea cables issue, while worrying, had had little effect on REWIRED so far and it is obviously hoped that this continues to be the case. There was an increase in productivity last year which increased the REWIRED turnover. The Turbine Manager reported that due to this, they recently gifted £200,000 to the REWDT charity, significantly mitigating REWIRED's Corporation Tax liability.

Laura reported that April 2019-March 2020 curtailment figures averaged 18.34% which is an improvement, but still significantly higher than was estimated when the system was first established (8-9%), however, it is hoped that with projects such as those that HSO are involved in, that curtailment figures can continue to improve.

9. Heat Smart Orkney Ltd (trading subsidiary) Report

Mark Hull briefly explained the history of HSO and reported that in 2012/13 solutions in to how to combat the turbine being curtailed were sought, and one of these solutions was to try to divert the energy to heat homes using secondary heating devices. The project diverts

curtailed energy from the Rousay turbine into secondary heating systems to combat fuel poverty, reducing the use of fossil fuels and keeping the Rousay turbine working and generating income for REWDT to use for community projects.

Mark then went onto present an update on the HSO project and subsequent projects. It was reported that there are currently 62 homes still in the HSO project. Since last year's AGM, HSO's final report had been submitted to their original funders. Mark reported that, since 2019, HSO had been self-funded and that economic development continues for HSO, which has employed 4 members of the community.

HSO is also currently expanding to include provision of customer engagement for other local renewable energy projects including SMILE, ReFlex and TRADER. SMILE focuses on grid-smart space and water heating, battery storage systems and intelligent EV charging. ReFlex will demonstrate a first-of-its-kind Virtual Energy System (VES) interlinking local electricity, transport, and heat networks into one controllable, overarching system, which will reduce and eventually eliminate the need for fossil fuels. TraDER a British Government funded initiative looks at the buying and selling of excessive energy available on the grid and looks to use the HSO devices to manage this. This will all be positive progression for REWIRED and the HSO devices. HSO continues to actively recruit other generators in Zone 1 to join the HSO project.

It was reported that challenges for this year include COVID-19 and subsequent restrictions. Successes include winning 'Best Community Project' at the Scottish Energy Awards 2020.

10. Q & A on all Projects

The Chair invited questions from the Members on any of the projects. No questions were asked.

11. Proposed Amendment to Article 77 (circulated with Agenda)

28 Members voted on the proposed change to Article 77. 100% of these 28 Members voted in favour of the amendment. Therefore, the proposed amendment to Article 77 was approved.

12. Appointment of Accountants

The Chair explained that REWDT have had no issues with Scholes Chartered Accountants, and they understand our organisation. He explained that in the recent past, price comparisons have been sought and they are comparable to other accountants. Therefore, the Chair proposed to continue to appoint Scholes Chartered Accountants. No objections were raised to this.

13. Notification of Election of Directors

The Chair explained that REWDT had asked VAO to independently count and verify the votes for the election of Directors to the Board of REWDT. The Chair confirmed they had collated the results and he went onto announce the results.

The Chair reported that there were 127 voting slips received by VAO. 111 of these were valid voting slips. There were 16 invalid voting slips, this was due to the voting slips not being in a member envelope on arrival at VAO or because the envelope had not been signed, as per the voting procedure.

From the 111 valid voting slips, the following results were collated and reported by VAO:

The following candidates did not attain the vote threshold for election to the Board: Murray Stewart 25 votes (23%), Andrea McKee 26 votes (23%), Trevor Barneveld 26 votes (23%), Alistair Munro 27 votes (24%), Steve Hanson 28 votes (25%), Stuart Sailor 33 votes (30%), Tony Mason 34 votes (31%), Clare Daintith 34 votes (31%), Julie Morgan 36 votes (32%), Ben Hicks 37 votes (33%), Nick Beal 38 votes (34%), Emma Melin 46 votes (41%), Grant Mainland 52 votes (47%), John Garson 54 votes (49%).

The following candidates all received over 50% of the votes cast and so are elected as Directors: Richard Tipper 59 votes (53%), Peter Roebuck 62 votes (56%), Alison Mainland 62 votes (56%), Eric Shortland 65 votes (59%), Sarah Foulds 65 votes (59%), Callum Flaws 88 votes (79%).

The 6 candidates elected join Kayleigh Tipper, Carlyne Tunbridge and Carole Maguire on the REWDT Board.

The Chair said he would like to take the opportunity to say that he had been on the Board for 14 years, since REWDT's inception, and would like to say thank you to all Directors and staff he has had the pleasure of working with, making decisions with, and moving the Trust forward with, in those 14 years.

14. AOB

Mark Hull stated that he wanted to say Thank you to John Garson for all his time and efforts, especially in the last few years when he had Chaired in challenging situations.

John Garson thanked everyone for coming and the meeting was closed.