

Coigach Community Development Company

Annual General Meeting 24th November 2015

MINUTES

Present:

Directors: Iain Muir (Chair), Iain Scott (Vice Chair), Steve Husband, Phil Shaughnessy, Ann Macleod

Local Development Officers: Julia Campbell, Linda MacLeod

In attendance: Paul Capewell (A9 Accountancy Limited)

Ordinary Members: Harry Hassall, Diana Hassall, Una McGregor, Peter Drake, Dorothy Miller, Michele Drake, Evelyn Scott, Sheila Dunbar, Keith Dunbar, Rachel Macleod, Ben Walton, Marilyn Mackenzie, Hector Mackenzie, Bill Baxter, Lizzie Williams, Lesley Muir, Julie Edwards, Ruth Leslie, Catherine MacKenzie, Ish Pendred, Alan Pendred.

Associate Members: Bill Baxter, Boyd Alexander, Susie McGregor.

Apologies: Alison Sinclair (DO), Anne Campbell (LDO), Elaine Drake, Bill Drake, Gerry Irvine, Mark Irvine, Alison Graham, Allan Graham, Richard Williams, Beryl Morgan, Chris Macleod, Bill Wilder

1. Welcome

The Chair, Iain Muir, opened the meeting, welcomed all attendees, and introduced Paul Capewell and Iain Scott.

Approval of AGM Minutes 2014: Proposed by Lesley Muir, seconded by Maureen Fraser

2. Directors' Reports

The Chair presented his report for the year. Steve Husband gave an update on Ben Mor Hydro Limited, and on Coigach Wind Power Limited on behalf of Alison Sinclair.

Questions from those attending in response to these reports included: a request from Keith Dunbar to confirm the dates for pre-accreditation for the hydro and turbine projects (December 2016 and March 2017 respectively); a query from Lesley Muir as to whether money would be lost if the hydro project was to go bankrupt (yes, if money has already been paid out). The Chair was congratulated on his report by HH, who wished CCDC every success. Harry Hassell also asked for clarification on whether new community right to buy legislation could mean, for instance, that tenants of the Schoolhouse could launch a CRTB on the building. The Chair confirmed that the Scottish Government has decided not to pursue this route of the legislation in Scotland.

3. Financial Report

Paul Capewell from A9 Accountancy Limited gave a detailed explanation of CCDC accounts for 2014/15. Questions from the floor were answered by Paul Capewell. A request was made by Harry Hassell for the accounts to be available in a different format for next year, including copies of the BMH and CWP accounts being made available for CCDC's AGM. HH requested it be

minuted that the accounts of all three companies were not available at this AGM. Keith Dunbar also requested the accounts of all three companies be available, so as to avoid future misunderstandings, the rationale being that the turbine project in particular is a critical one for the community so members would like to understand it more. The Chair said CWP would have the final decision on this but he could see no difficulties with it.

A discussion was had around the definition of 'tangible fixed assets'. Midge Drake asked why membership subscriptions and donations were lower this year (because last year's figure included donations to the Smokehouse). The approval of the 2014/15 accounts was proposed by Harry Hassell and seconded by Catherine MacKenzie.

4. Fixing of Subscriptions

It was proposed that annual subscriptions should remain at £5 per annum. Proposed by Steve Husband and seconded by Ann Macleod.

5. Election of Directors

Two Directors stood down: Steve Husband and Ann Macleod. Both were eligible to stand again, and both were proposed by Harry Hassell and seconded by Phil Shaughnessy.

6. AOCB

Lizzie Williams asked, regarding the hydro project, what process is needed in order to make a decision on continuing or not (timescale, financial commitment, and risk. The board is made up of four directors, two from CCDC and two from SWT, so it will be a joint decision). Marilyn MacKenzie asked if there was any idea of a date for the decision (the end of November). Evelyn Scott asked if the timescale is achievable (yes, barring any major mishaps). Keith Dunbar asked if the decision was made to go ahead, construction starts, then the project has to stop, would there be any residual benefit for the community (not particularly, the project would have to be sold on the open market). Harry Hassell asked who the hydro project will approach for the required loan (BMH have met with a bank who are prepared to fund it but figures are changing constantly. Bill Baxter asked if there was a view of what could or should be done regarding the closure of the hotel (it is on the market and will hopefully open as usual in Easter. CCDC's role is to assist in making Coigach as an attractive place as possible).

Phil Shaughnessy commented that all the directors are volunteers, and contribute a great deal of time and effort to all the projects.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending, thanked the LDOs and Directors for all their efforts, and made a request to members to spread the word about help with looking at options for better broadband for Coigach, a project CCDC are working on with Community Broadband Scotland.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.