

Minutes**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Held at Balnain Hall, Balnain at 7.30 pm on

Thursday 20th June 2013

Attendees:

Tanya Castell (TC); Ian Campbell (IC); Suzanne Irvine (SI); Mathieu Oosterwijk (MO); Nigel Fraser (NF); Anne MacDonald (AM); Russell Fraser (RF); Erik Trefler (ET); Louise MacDonald.

The Annual General Meeting was attended by 22 members (including the 9 Board members), Mike Girvan (MG) of Corrimony Energy Limited, Donna Green (DG) as Community Development Officer for Soirbheas and 2 non-members from the community.

Apologies were received from 5 members.

Introduction:

A quorum being present TC opened the meeting and welcomed the attendees.

The minutes of the previous AGM of 21st June 2012 were approved and signed.

Declarations of Conflicts of Interest - NF for his interest in the Guisachan wind farm. Conflicts Declarations forms have all been completed.

Project update:

MG provided a project update and advised that the turbines were performing as expected, albeit output was slightly lower than expected given that energisation did not take place till March.

Directors' report and annual accounts:

TC thanked the Board for all of their hard work over the preceding year and re-capped the main events of the year. These being, the difficulties encountered to finalise the funding for the wind farm; the event in which local children from Cannich Bridge, Balnain and Glen Urquhart Primary Schools filled time capsules, which are now buried under the sub-station at the wind farm; the production of policy documents (available at www.soirbheas.org); the recruitment of a part time Community Development Officer (Donna Green) and the wind farm open day held in March.

TC gave special thanks to SI and MG for organising and facilitating the time capsule event.

TC advised that the official opening of the wind farm was due to take place on the 29th June.

IC presented the financial annual accounts of Soirbheas for the year ended 31st March 2013 and explained the financial structure, with particular reference to the funding received from Social Investment Scotland.

Appointments and special resolution:

According to the terms of the Articles of Association, TC and ET retired by rotation from the Board and were then proposed, seconded and re-elected by the members for a further term.

NF and AM advised that they were stepping down as directors. AM will remain involved to provide advice to the board and NF will remain as a director of Soirbheas Trading Limited.

During the year RF and LM were co-opted onto the Board. Their appointment as directors was proposed, seconded and approved by the members.

In accordance with the terms of the Articles of Association, TC proposed a special resolution to accept the revised Articles of Association (as distributed prior to the meeting). 25 members, including the directors and 4 postal votes, voted in favour of the resolution; that being more than 75% of members entitled to vote at the meeting; the revised Articles were duly accepted.

Vision and values:

TC advised that a further piece of work undertaken by the directors was to agree the vision and values which would apply to Soirbheas as it approached the next phase of its existence. The vision was for Soirbheas to create a more vibrant, growing and greener community and the values agreed upon by the board were:

- Communicative - we aim to be open and transparent with our members and the community.
- Caring - we use our resources to take care of our community and the environment in which we live.
- Collaborative - we work with the community and co-operate with other grant funders and organisations to deliver against Soirbheas' objectives.
- Credible - we act fairly and with integrity.
- Committed - we are dedicated to delivering the vision of a more vibrant, growing and greener community.

These will shortly be available on the website.

TC mentioned Soirbheas' participation in the recent WPD event (Beinn Mhor proposed wind turbine project) and restated Soirbheas' neutrality in respect of the project (in terms of whether the project should go ahead or not) and its intention to act as a vehicle for distribution of community funds if the project did indeed go ahead.

TC introduced DG to the members and invited her to talk about her role within Soirbheas.

DG spoke briefly about her personal and work background and explained that her role was going to involve helping community groups identify and bring forward suitable projects for Soirbheas to fund. She further explained that she had been working with the directors to draft funding criteria, on which to assess grant applications. The draft criteria have been incorporated into a consultation document which was being presented to the two community councils and other local groups with a view to receiving feedback from the local community. The opportunity for wider consultation also exists in the form of an announcement which would be put on the website for all residents to respond to and Soirbheas' attendance at the Glen Urquhart Highland Games and the Strathglass annual summer fayre.

TC suggested that Soirbheas might consider leading larger projects such as, for example, the development of community broadband and a visitor centre to attract more tourism to the area.

TC then asked for any questions or comments; the following were received from the floor:

1) Will the consultation document be on the website?

Answer – Yes.



2) Will Soirbheas take funding applications now i.e. before the consultation process is complete?

Answer – Soirbheas doesn't yet have the capacity to consider funding requests but if members wanted to bring forward ideas for projects on an informal basis then this was to be encouraged.

3) What is the timeframe for completion and availability of the funding application forms?

Answer – the intention is to have the consultation process concluded and the funding criteria completed first [by September 2013]. Work also needed to be done on the scoring criteria and the grant application form.

There being no further questions TC thanked everyone for coming and closed the meeting.

Chair:		Tanya Castell
Clerk to the Board:		Erik Trelfer
Date:		