

MINUTE

**Minute of meeting of Kilbraur Wind Farm Community Benefit Trust
held on Wednesday 24 March 2010
in The Golspie Heritage Centre, Golspie at 7.30pm**

PRESENT	Campbell Port (chair), Steve Wonderley, Iain Miller, John McMorran, Ronnie Sim, Charles Gorer, James Ritchie, Linda Robichaud (secretary),
APOLOGIES	None
OBSERVERS	Cllr Deirdre Mackay, Cllr Ian Ross, Hannah Garden (Falck Renewables), Euan Fraser (Falck Renewables)

ITEM		ACTION
1	<p>WELCOME</p> <p>Campbell Port opened the meeting by welcoming everyone including the new secretary. There were no apologies.</p> <p>Sincere thanks were expressed to Ronnie Sim for all his hard work as a Trust member. Although he had now stepped down from the Trust, Ronnie had agreed to continue as Treasurer, a commitment which was greatly appreciated by his fellow Trustees.</p> <p>Thanks were also extended to Joy Wonderley for all her diligent work in dealing with the secretarial duties for the Trust for the last 2 years.</p> <p>Trustees were thanked for dealing with Trust matters while Campbell had recently been abroad.</p>	
2	<p>MINUTES OF MEETING 6 OCTOBER 2009</p> <p>The last minuted meeting was held on 6 October 2009 and had been approved with no matters arising. Subsequent meetings had been non-minutable as they related to the appointment of a new secretary with the then current secretary being a possible candidate.</p> <p>James Ritchie requested that the first two sentences of item 3c on the minute of 6 October relating to the appointment of a Press Officer be removed from the minute. This was proposed by Campbell Port and seconded by Iain Miller and would be duly removed.</p>	LR
3	<p>TREASURER'S REPORT</p> <p>Ronnie Sim reminded everyone that an annual lump sum along with an amount based on output from the wind farm was payable to the Trust from Falck Renewables. As things stand £40,201.88 is expected to be paid to the Trust on 25 March 2010.</p> <p>Euan Fraser of Falck Renewables mentioned that January and February of this year had produced uncharacteristically poor output results. There had been problems with the turbines and Falck Renewables were currently in the process of drafting a claim for lack of performance against their contract. In light of this claim a sum of money will be coming to Falck Renewables of which a proportion will be paid to the Trust. It was estimated that the Trust could expect around £4,000 extra.</p>	

Steve Wonderley asked what the issues were with the wind farm and how they had been resolved. Euan Fraser replied that there had been a problem with the transformer on turbine No 19 with the result that the turbine had been down for 9 months of the year. Nordex, however, have made changes to the way they operate and Euan confirmed that the extension to the wind farm would be Nordex.

4 **REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS**

Ronnie drew the attention of the Trustees to the fact that the applications were presented in the order that they had been received.

4.1 **Application reference: 2010/11/001**

Submitted by: Brora Social Amenities Group

Amount requested: £20,000

Campbell Port summarised the application: the application referred to the purchase of a marquee tent which would be available throughout the year for a variety of events in the Brora area including Brora carnival week.

After initial comments Iain Miller suggested that £10,000 rather than £20,000 be considered as an appropriate amount to be awarded with the Group having to access additional funds from alternative sources. John McMorran agreed and added that storage of the tent would have to be considered with a condition to be put in place highlighting this aspect should money be awarded.

It was noted that the Brora Social Amenities Group worked alongside local groups such as the Senior Citizen Club, Brora Running Club and the Beachview Centre.

Concern was raised by Ronnie Sim as to where the applicants would find the balance to pay for the marquee.

Charles Gorer commented that the applicants would have an opportunity to hire out the marquee and that this would add to the case for making an award.

It was proposed that a commitment of £10,000 be given to the Brora Amenities Group with the proviso that they can supply evidence of where the balance of the funding will come from and that due consideration be given to the storage of the marquee.

The proposal was supported unanimously.

4.2 **Application reference: 2010/11/002**

Submitted by: Perfect Paws Canine Club

Amount requested: £1,950

Campbell Port gave a brief summary of the application: The Perfect Paws Canine Club had been formed in August 2009 with the objective to take dog training beyond the basics and offer people locally and in remote areas the opportunity to attend specialist training courses and workshops.

The club wished to purchase agility training equipment. Campbell Port highlighted that to have a current membership of 52 having started out only a few months ago was a considerable achievement for this area.

The total cost of the project was £2,600 with a request for funding of £1950. The balance would come from their own funds.

James Ritchie began the discussion by commenting that most of the classes were outside the immediate area of benefit although the origins of the club could be traced to Rogart. Campbell Port replied that the club mention they do have classes in such places as Rogart and Golspie.

John McMorran pointed out that the area covered by the club overlaps the area of benefit and it should be noted that the organisation itself is raising a lot of funds.

It was proposed to award £1,950. The proposal was supported unanimously.

4.3 **Application reference: 2010/11/003**

Submitted by: Friends of Brora School

Amount requested: £4404

Campbell Port gave a brief summary of the application: "Friends of Brora School" is composed of parents/carers of the children attending the school and members of the local community. It aims to advance the education of the children at the school in curricular and non-curricular activities. The application related to the modification of an old bike shed to become a horizontal climbing wall. A leaflet showing such a climbing wall was circulated to the observers.

Concern was raised over what the Highland Council was responsible for but this was a community project and an after school activity so there would be no expectation that the Highland Council would pay. A request had been made for the full amount of £4,404. John McMorran pointed out that that the organisation had £2,932 in their account which would lead to an expectation that they could provide £1,100 themselves. It was then suggested that the Trust provide 75% of the amount requested. This came to a figure of £3,300.

It was then proposed by Iain Miller that £3,300 be therefore awarded by the Trust. This was seconded by Charles Gorer with the proposal being passed.

As a footnote, but outside the scope of the meeting, it was hoped that Brora Community Council would be able to find a small amount of money to enable some murals to be put on the wall as had happened in Golspie.

- 4.4 **Application reference: 2010/11/004**
Submitted by: The Young Karers East Sutherland (TYKES)
Amount requested: £3,879

Campbell Port gave a summary of the application: the aim of the organisation is to provide young carers in East Sutherland with the opportunity to have a break from their caring responsibilities so that they are less likely to experience health or social problems or educational exclusion. Any money awarded would be to provide much needed respite over the coming year. They had requested £3,879 with no contribution coming from "TYKES" themselves or any other source.

Iain Miller thought this application was more related to government business than the Trust with a suggestion not to support the application. Steve Wonderley commented that the application did not relate to any tangible purchase. Campbell Port was of an opinion to support them but not on the basis of their current application. It was considered that while "TYKES" was a worthy organisation the application was not specific enough.

It was proposed and accepted that the application be opposed but included in the correspondence to "TYKES" would be an offer that the Trust would be willing to look at a fresh application which contained more detail. It was also recommended that "TYKES" should be invited to meet with the Golspie Community Council.

- 4.5 **Application reference: 2010/11/005**
Submitted by: Fountain Road Hall Development Group
Amount requested: £19,990

Campbell Port gave a summary of the application: the building in question belongs to the Church of Scotland but they use St Andrews Church. Golspie has no village hall and their hall is an obvious facility. Their committee has already raised funds in order to, for example, install a renewable energy heating system and to add protection to the stained glass windows. Their application to the Trust is for an extension to provide a kitchen, toilet block and new entrance hall. The Trust guidelines state that funds must not be used for religious purposes. As pointed out by Campbell Port the application states that the hall is currently used by such groups as the Choral Society, the Davy Duff Tape Service and Scouting organisations. It is anticipated that these groups would all benefit from the project. The total cost for the building work is over £132,000 of which £112,000 has been obtained from other sources. This leaves a request of £19,990 from the Trust.

A discussion followed with Ronnie Sim requesting clarification on the length of the lease that was currently held. The Trustees agreed they would be happy to accept a 10 year lease.

It was noted that included in the documentation submitted was a copy of a letter from St Andrews Church to Scottish Natural Heritage giving the Fountain Hall Development Group full authority to carry out proposed work and manage it for a minimum of 10 years. It was decided that the Group should be written to and asked if they could provide to the Trust a similar letter with a new date. John McMorran further suggested that evidence was required showing that the St Andrews congregational board had the authority to give 10 years. The Trustees were in agreement with this course of action and that it should be included in the letter to be written to the group. It was proposed by Steve Wonderley that £19,990 should be awarded. This was seconded by John McMorran and duly passed.

4.6 Application reference: 2010/11/006

Submitted by: Golspie Lunch Club
Amount requested: £2,000

Campbell Port gave a summary of the application: the Golspie Lunch Club enables senior citizens to get out of the home environment and the grant applied for would give members two outings a year.

James Ritchie pointed out that perhaps Golspie Community Council should be funding the lunch club. Iain Miller asked whether Rogart had a lunch club. No, but they did have a bus trip and Christmas lunch financed by the Community Council. James Ritchie proposed that no award be made.

Iain Miller proposed an award of £1,000. This was seconded by Charles Gorer with the decision being duly accepted by a majority. Steve Wonderley noted that the amount was almost a running cost but John McMorran pointed out that the club was of a high social benefit. Steve Wonderley sustained but went along with the decision.

4.7 Application reference: 2010/11/007

Submitted by: Dunrobin Castle Piping Championships
Amount requested: £3,400

Campbell Port gave a summary of the application: the aim of the organisation is to provide a quality platform for Junior and young inexperienced Seniors. Previously the championships had been financed primarily by estates but they were now required to provide alternative funding.

Steve Wonderley pointed out that the amount applied for was a running cost and therefore would occur every year. John McMorran suggested that if the amount was for something recognisable then perhaps it could be viewed in a different light.

Charles Gorer proposed that the application be rejected. This was seconded by Steve Wonderley. The decision was unanimous.

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- 4.8 **Application reference: 2010/11/008**
Submitted by: Golspie Heritage Society
Amount requested: £1,000

Iain Miller declared an interest as his wife is chair of the society.

Campbell Port stated that the application was a straightforward request for capital equipment – a screen and multimedia projector.

Due to the amount requested the Trust was able to make an award of 100%. It was passed unanimously that £1,000 be awarded. Ronnie Sim stated that the award would be paid on production of a receipted invoice and that a photocopy of the receipted invoice would be sufficient.

- 4.9 **Application reference: 2010/11/009**
Submitted by: Sutherland Amateur Football Association

Iain Miller stated that the application was incomplete and did not constitute a full application.

The application was unanimously rejected but in the letter to the Association it should be mentioned that if the Association were to submit a full application then the Trust would be willing to reconsider the application.

- 4.10 **Application reference: 2010/11/010**
Submitted by: Brora Rangers Youth Development Initiative
Amount requested: £20,000

Campbell Port gave a summary of the application: The Brora Rangers Youth Initiative is associated with Brora Rangers Football Club and aims to support the development of grassroots football for young people from 11-17 years of age. Their application relates to the installation of an all weather surface – “Tiger Turf”. The cost of the facility is £110,000 with £90,000 coming from other funding sources leaving a request to the Trust for the balance of £20,000. James Ritchie began by querying the size of the pitch. Steve Wonderley questioned the disparity in the two quotes provided – one being £110,000 and the other £55,000 - and requested that further costings be submitted to clarify what each included. This was agreed.

A discussion followed regarding exactly what further information would be required to improve the quality of the application.

Steve reiterated that the project itself was worthy in what it was trying to achieve but that it was the quality of the application that was in question.

Suggestions as to whether £10,000 or £10,000 over two years should be awarded or £20,000 were discussed.

However, a motion was carried to refer back. It was therefore agreed that

The Brora Rangers Youth Initiative should be written to encouraging them to resubmit their application with full costing details and details of other funders. They would also need to clarify the ownership of the land. It was to be made apparent that any resubmitted application would be looked upon favourably.

4.11 **Application reference: 2010/11/011**

Submitted by: Feis Chataibit

Amount requested: £3,475

Campbell Port gave a summary of the application: The group promote interest, education and participation in Gaelic arts, language and culture. The money applied for would be used for another Summer "Ceilidh Trail".

The total project cost is £25,650 with £21,960 coming from other sources and a request to the Trust for the balance of £3,690.

Campbell Port declared an interest in that the supporting document referred to a fee for the position of "co-ordinator" and that his daughter held this position.

Iain Miller began by suggesting that the amount should be paid in full.

John McMorran emphasised the value of the organisation while James Ritchie said the previously discussed "TYKES" application came to mind within the context of a "retrospective" application.

Iain Miller proposed £3690. There was no dissent and the proposal was passed unanimously.

4.12 **Application reference: 2010/11/012**

Submitted by: The Friends of Sutherland Schools Pipe Band

Campbell Port gave a summary of the application: The organisation is there to promote, advance and encourage pipe playing, drumming and highland dancing in all its branches. They would now like to replace their drums, harnesses and drum boxes as well as their uniforms. The uniforms would be just over £14,000.

James Ritchie questioned as to whether it was in the Highland Council constitution to support pipe bands with Cllr Ian Ross stating it was discretionary.

Two estimates for drums had been given - £6,208 and £7,100. After a brief discussion it was agreed that £6,000 would be awarded specifically for the drums. This condition was to be included in the letter along with the recognition of the fact that they had also requested uniforms.

4.13 Application reference: 2010/11/013

Submitted by: Golspie High School Enhancement Group
Amount requested: £16,850

Campbell Port gave a summary of the application: this group had been set up within Golspie High School to provide an enhanced level of provision beyond the normal level provided by the Council. Also included in the remit is to explore wider community benefit of any additional provision. The group would like to set up a portable and flexible ICT resource. An amount of £16,850 was requested from the Trust.

It was decided that a letter would be written asking for more information on the quotation and a clarification on the independence of the organisation from the school. The cost of the laptops themselves would also be questioned as, on the face of it, the price seemed expensive. A request for more quotes would also be made. It was also decided that the application should be treated like the Brora Rangers Youth Initiative application previously discussed. Therefore the Group would be asked to resubmit their application.

4.14 In summary Ronnie Sim stated that £16,940 was going out from the Trust with £29,990 being potentially set aside and subject to the information requested from the relevant organisations being submitted to the satisfaction of the Trust. This meant a theoretical commitment of £46,000 in total which would leave another £30,000, currently unallocated, for the rest of the year.

5 CORRESPONDENCE IN

A letter had been received from Paul Hoggarth, Chair of Edderton Community Council. The letter related to the £5,000 disruption payment made to the above Council by the Trust.

Thanks were expressed to the Trust and an explanation of where the money had been allocated: £2,500 had been given to Edderton Primary School, £1,500 to the Community Association and the balance of £1,000 had been put towards the cost of a new path being created on the north side of Struie Hill. The school had been allocated the highest proportion as they had suffered over 80 lorry movements per day outside their classrooms during the construction of the wind farm.

6 AOCB

6.1 Steve Wonderley highlighted that, at present, no meaningful applications had been submitted from the Rogart area and that this must be noted. Sensitivities are important. Cllr Ross re-enforced this and hoped that support groups in Rogart would come forward.

It was mentioned that application forms were readily available in Rogart and that the role of the Trust can be raised at Community Councils.

6.2 It was decided that the closing date for the next round of applications would be 31st May 2010 with a meeting of the Trustees to take place at the end of June at a time and date to be agreed.

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6.3 Two adverts were to be placed in the "Northern Times" prior to the closing date. These would be placed in early April and the 1st May.

7 **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

No agenda items were put forward.

Campbell Port thanked guests for attending and the Trustees for their work in assessing the applications. There being no further business to be discussed the meeting closed.