



**REWDT Board Meeting,
Monday 07 April 2025 @ 19:00
Minutes**

Present: Peter Roebuck (Chair), Grant Mainland (Vice-Chair), Alison Mainland (Treasurer), Carole Maguire, Eric Shortland & Kayleigh Tipper.

In Attendance: Lloyd Gudgeon (CDO), Helen Castle (Co Sec/AFO) & Hannah Shell (Estate Manager).

- 1. Welcome & Apologies for absence** – Peter welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were received from Mark Hull, Richard Tipper & Callum Flaws.
- 2. CBS Update re The Taversoe** – Peter shared the good news that The Taversoe will be open to the public on Saturday 12 April. On Friday 11 April at 7 p.m. the new tenant, Bill Brown wanted to invite the board and staff of the REW DT & the CBS to have refreshments and look around the property and hear about his plans and thank everyone for their help in getting this far. **API: Lloyd** to check that the Taversoe has an updated premises licence. The Taversoe will be open to the public from Saturday at 11 a.m., Bill would like to open most days of the week. The first guest booking is in May.
Peter explained the set up between the REW DT, the CBS and the tenant. There are two contracts in place, these were developed last year, the REW DT has a lease agreement with the CBS who then let the premises to an appropriate tenant. The REW DT contribution to the CBS for the project is £15,000 for the business set up and restocking. This may increase by another £5,000 and the CBS are managing the transfer of the funding in phases to their tenant, as required. This way the funds benefit the community and is in a direct response to the community mandate to keep the Taversoe open for the community's benefit. The tenant has a five year lease with the CBS, the contract does have termination clauses if the business is not successful. The CBS is a voluntary organisation that supports and aims and objectives of REW DT.

3. **Minutes of the Grants & Budget Board Meeting held on Monday 24 February 2025** - The Minutes were approved. Proposed by Grant Mainland & Seconded by Alison Mainland.

4. **Action points (see below) and other matters arising (if not elsewhere on agenda).**

27 January 2025

AP2: Grant to approach the OIC Local Action Group and the OIC Community Development Fund to see if they are willing to fund or part-fund a building such as a large shed to be built to house the Snooker Club. **Discharged.**

22 February 2025

AP1: Helen to contact DTAS re insurance brokers with a view to getting alternative insurance cover for the board prior to the August renewal date. **Ongoing.**

AP2: Ellie to speak to the REW&G CC to see if they are willing to match fund any of the grants the REW DT offers. **Ongoing.**

AP3: Lloyd to find out how we can access data on how many 'hits' the website gets and what people are searching for when they visit our website. **Ongoing.**

AP4: Lloyd to contact Shapinsay on Monday, to get the details of how The Smithy is managed. **Discharged.**

24 February 2025

AP1: Helen to check with the RCA that there are no other planned events on these days before advertising. **Discharged.**

5. **Declaration of Interests** – Peter declared an interest re The Craithub grant application as Frances plays the piano, no other declarations of interest declared.

6. **REWIRED Update –**

Productivity at the turbine for the past 3 months:

2024/25	Actual Productivity (kWh)	% Productivity (against 37% target)	% Curtailment (against 7% expectation)
December	252,934	39.03%	37.6%
January	223,521	34.49%	37.6%
February	319,736	49.35%	14.8%

March saw Enercon visit the site three times, two for inspections and one to address the SCADA connection issue and investigate noises in spinner. The issues with connectivity seem to be fixed now.

The CPO met again in March, the application to extend planning is progressing for the Orkney sites.

REWIRED Ltd. corporation tax was paid in October, HMRC have had issues regarding payments received. Scholes and the Turbine Manager have been in constant contact since before Christmas trying to get this issue resolved as quickly as possible. Currently this is still ongoing.

7. Grants.

The Grant report was previously circulated.

The General Grant from The Craithub was discussed, and the board approved the request for part-funding (£2,500.00) to purchase the Piano. The directors were happy to see that the Craithub had applied for match funding.

8. Trust Manager Report /Projects

- 8.1. HR & Staffing – Lloyd introduced Hannah Shell our new Estate Manager for Trumland Land. This is Hannah's third week, and she has been going through the historic paperwork and has been making contact with our partner organisations. Hannah's will next be arranging to meet with local farmers and people with connections or views on the estate. The end result is to have a management plan that can be monitored. Hannah has been speaking with Morven windfarm who have been making plans to do two weeks of predator surveying with the view to installing predator fencing on the Island. At this stage Morven may be open to other suggestions that would fulfil their mitigation requirements, if mitigation is carried out on Rousay there may be some community funding made available, so this is being explored.

Two other new staff have been employed wef 01 April, these are Julie Akid (who has now resigned as a REW DT director) in the Admin Support Role and Christine Briggs for project and developmental organisational work. This reflects the need for additional organisation and project development input.

Lloyd also updated on the office broadband changes, Copla are no longer able to offer broadband to the office and CloudNet quickly installed a broadband service allowing staff and the community to access the internet. Fibre has now been put into the office location and Helen asked the board who they would like to supply the fibre connection, the board agreed to go with CloudNet. **Helen** to action this connection.

Projects

8.2. Affordable Housing – The funding application has been submitted for Johnstons Road.

Planning Permission was again refused for The Manse due to the current bore hole not being sufficient in quantity to provide for three flats. We will have to commission a new borehole and get it tested before we can resubmit a planning application. The board approved the commissioning of a new borehole. **AP2: Lloyd** to arrange for a new borehole to be drilled at The Manse. OIC will need the borehole to have the capacity for the three flats rather than having a holding water tank installed. Once the borehole has been drilled and OIC have a report on the flow they will inform the DT if acceptable and if this is the case planning permission can be resubmitted.

8.3. The Taversoe - Planned opening under section 2 of the minutes. Bill has requested that the REW DT pays for the first round of drinks purchased by locals, the board agreed providing the correct licences are in place and up to a value of £100.00, **Lloyd** to inform Bill.

The previous potential tenant is seeking recompense from the Trust for expenses she says were incurred by her during the lease negotiation. CBS is dealing with this, but we have not seen any legitimate claim, so expect it not to be escalated.

8.4. Pier Restaurant - Air sampling is now finished, and the sample sent off for analysis. The results will tell us if we need to continue monitoring or if we can begin to bring the building back into public use. Bill is happy to take over the Pier Restaurant as well as the Taversoe, the board will consider this option if they feel Bill has the capacity to run both in the future.

The floor hole has been filled in. We are waiting on a haulier to remove the toxic waste soil. RSK are providing us with details of accredited hauliers.

We will be having a clear-out of the garage area. Items in there that belong to other groups or individuals should be removed. Anything left will be sold, given away, archived or disposed of.

Peter suggested that once the building has been tidied up that the DT holds a community consultation regarding options for the short and long-term use of the building.

8.5. Community Transport - New EV charge points due outside the cabin have had the trench and ducting completed, we are just waiting for the electrical works. We have asked for new electrical connection for the cabin so that the EV chargers are separate from the Pier building.

Recently we have had delegations from several Borders communities visiting Rousay to see what we are doing with community transport and with our other projects.

We have signed a service agreement with the GP surgery to deliver prescription medication to community members who struggle to go and pick them up for themselves.

There is a constant low-level demand for transport from particularly vulnerable members of the community. When this is off-island it creates an additional workload on the driver – help to and from buildings, carrying bags, etc. Lloyd asked the Board if they would be happy to allow an occasional input from a Passenger Assistant paid for on an hourly contract basis to cover such needs. Carole informed the board about the history of the Rousay Ambulance Crew, they are paid as first responders (most other islands only have unpaid volunteers) and can also cover responding to the emergency button calls. At the time this was set up there was consideration about these highly trained people also helping with moving people from A to B e.g. for the type of transport trips our Dial-A-Ride service offers, hospital visits etc. This was not taken up by NHS at the time. Carole suggested that **AP3: Lloyd or Christine** contacts the Chair of NHS Orkney to see if our ambulance crew could undertake any vulnerable residents transport off Rousay to reduce the chance of falls or other injuries. If they are in agreement, the REW DT would need a MOU or other agreement with the NHS stating this is part of the first responder's contract.

Lloyd added that we from today we have had issues with the van which can only be fixed under warranty by taking the van to Thurso, which Lloyd is currently arranging. The Nissan Leaf is also out of action as a car club member was concerned about the brakes and Lloyd has arranged for a garage to do a check on these before anyone else uses the vehicle.

8.6. Waterfront - Phase 2 SLF application has been submitted without agreement in principle to sell from some of the landowners. The DT should hear in May if we have been successful. Peter and Julie Gibson attended the Scottish Parliament Cross Party Group on Islands Event, including a debate on Scottish Islands and had the opportunity to speak with businesses and MSPs Jamie Halcro Johnston (Shadow Minister for Rural Economy and Islands & Chair of the Cross Party Group) & Mairi Gougeon (Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform & Islands) regarding our Waterfront Development project plans. Mairi Gougeon knew Rousay well and both are happy to help with the project as we move forward.

8.7. Events, Networks, other activities and opportunities –

8.7.1 The National Lottery approached us to help with a pilot scheme that would see them give the REW DT £10,000 for us to distribute to

groups in our community in small amounts of up to £500 each group, this is very similar to the current Community Activity Grant. Ellie will add this to our own grants scheme and monitor its impact.

- 8.7.2 The Well Being Coordinator (WBC) project is coming to an end. We have to decide what we want to do about continuing the Well-Being Co-ordinator work. Lloyd went through the three options as stated in Nicky's paper. The board approved Option 1, which is for REWDT to lead the development of a new Development Trust network and project for all the WBCs across the existing islands of Hoy, Shapinsay, Westray, Stronsay and REW. This will include a funding application to The National Lottery Community Fund where initial discussions regarding this have been held and have generally been positive.

This project development would be supported by existing VAO Island Wellbeing Project staff up to 31st August.

There is interest from the other islands in this new network being developed. Kayleigh asked what Nicky does on a day-to-day role and is happy for Nicky to take this forward so long as she has the capacity. **AP4: Nicky** will be invited to the next board meeting to share her role with directors. Peter shared the split between the VAO funded 14 hours and the REW DT funded 7 hours of Nicky's role and the role of the Community Linked Practitioners on Orkney Mainland, which is now being done by our surgery.

- 8.7.3 Peter & Lloyd attended the Orkney Development Trusts conference in Kirkwall. This was a good opportunity for networking.

- 8.7.4 OHAL is proposing to issue an Orkney Housing Bond which will pay a fixed 4% to community investors like us, over a 10 year investment period. This will open soon. Lloyd asked **AP5: All Directors** to think about the investment opportunity with OHAL, for discussion at the next board meeting. Peter shared REWIRED Ltd. plans for extending the life of the turbine. It could be possible to invest future 'gift' funding to get a better payback at the end of 10 years.

- 8.7.5 Egilsay Community Association (ECA) have asked the REW DT (but not in time for this board meeting if the DT would support them in the SLF application to buy the school to use as a community building on Egilsay. This would mean a three year financial support for ECA of £2,000 in year 1, £1,000 in year 2 and £500.00 in year 3, under a General Grant application.

9. Administration, Finance & Office

- 9.1 **Finance** – No queries from Directors regarding the 2024/25 budget spreadsheet shared prior to the meeting.

- 9.2 Helen shared that the team are currently putting together the Annual Report and asked if directors wished to see this for comment prior to it going for printing next week. **Helen** will have all the staff updates by Monday morning and will combine these into the report format and share for directors to get any changes

back to Helen by Tuesday midday, to allow enough time for these to be made and the final document to be ready to go to the printers on Wednesday. **AP6: All directors** to get their feedback/changes back to Helen for the Annual Report by Tuesday 15 April 12:00 noon. Helen & Julie will be doing a membership drive mailshot this week.

10. AOB or extending the life of the turbine.

10.1 Carole shared the Rousay Community Association's plans to improve the school children's drop off point by removing the four sheds at the side of the school and making this a car parking area. This will greatly improve their safety. Shed 1 has the 6kW turbine electrical equipment in it and this would need to be rehoused in the Water Tower. OIC approve of these changes. Helen to check with Northern Turbine Services (NTS) re the costs and ease of doing this. Alison mentioned that two properties get their water supply from the school and will need to be contacted about this work happening, **AP7: Carole** to speak to them both. **Carole** to also send Helen a plan of the changes for NTS. OIC & REW & G CC may help with the costs of these changes.

11. Next Board Meeting –

- Monday 05 May 2025 @ 19:00, Pier Cabin.
- Monday 16 June 2025 @ 19:00, Pier Cabin.

Summary of outstanding action points.

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AP3: Lloyd to find out how we can access data on how many 'hits' the website gets and what people are searching for when they visit our website.

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07 April 2025

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AP2: **Lloyd** to arrange for a new borehole to be drilled at The Manse.

AP3: **Lloyd or Christine** contacts the Chair of NHS Orkney to see if our ambulance crew could undertake any vulnerable residents transport off Rousay.

AP4: **Nicky** will be invited to the next board meeting to share her role with directors.

AP5: **All Directors** to think about the investment opportunity with OHAL.

AP6: **All directors** to get their feedback/changes back to Helen for the Annual Report by Tuesday 15 April 12:00 noon.

AP7: **Carole** to speak to the two properties who get their water supply from the school about the changes planned and how this may affect their water supply. **Carole** to also send Helen a plan of the changes for NTS.

Acronym List

AFO	Admin & Finance Officer
TM	Turbine Manager
Co Sec	Company Secretary
CDO	Community Development Officer
REW DT	Rousay, Egilsay & Wyre Development Trust
DT	Development Trust
NILPS	North Isles Landscape Partnership Scheme
OIC	Orkney Islands Council
OHAL	Orkney Housing Association Ltd.
SLF	Scottish Land Fund
BLF	Big Lottery Fund
OSCR	Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator
REWGCC	Rousay, Egilsay, Wyre & Gairsay Community Council
REWIRED	Rousay, Egilsay & Wyre Islands Renewable Energy Development
CPO	Community Power Orkney
SNH	Scottish Natural Heritage
HIE	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
FCA	Financial Conduct Society
CBS	Community Benefit Society
CTA	Community Transport Association
CiN	Children in Need
RCA	Rousay Community Association