REWDT Board Meeting,
Monday 01 June 2026 @ 19:00
Minutes

Present: Peter Roebuck (Chair), Lisa Croft (Vice-Chair), Alison Mainland (Treasurer), Kayleigh Tipper, Richard Tipper, Eric Shortland, Callum Flaws, Grant Mainland, Mark Hull & Carole Maguire.

In Attendance: Lloyd Gudgeon (CDO), Helen Castle (Co Sec/AFO), Hannah Shell (Estate Manager) & Tom Hadley (Orkney Native Wildlife Project).

1. **Welcome & Apologies for absence** – Peter welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies from Joy Henderson.

2. **Tom Hadley, Orkney Native Wildlife Project – Update on the recent stoat sightings on Rousay.** – Tom shared the information regarding the stoat incursion. This was first reported in April and confirmed in May. ONWP is working to remove the problem, and Hannah will be assisting where possible with practical help and coordinating of volunteers. Stoat numbers have dropped on Orkney Mainland and therefore the idea of an incursion on another island was considered low risk. The management of, and communication with volunteers had not been going well, but today a more constructive collaborative approach has been agreed, and Tom was pleased that some Rousay residents had agreed to volunteer.

   At present ONWP has twenty-five cameras and access to a trained dog and handler, plus traps to try to catch the stoat or stoats. Orkney Native Wildlife Project is responsible for the removal of all stoats in Orkney Mainland and are working with Nature Scot to deal with the Rousay incursion response. Once the stoat is removed monitoring will need to be carried out for two years before Rousay can be declared a stoat free island. If the stoat is male, there should not be any issues but if female it is likely that the stoat could be pregnant, and this would cause a much bigger issue. The stoat was last seen on camera on 07 May. Stoats eat voles, mice and some ground nesting chicks/eggs. It is possible that the stoat swam to Rousay, but the project will know more once the animal is caught and the DNA checked. Hannah and Lisa requested better updates and comms to keep residents up to date and engaged. Tom will be working on more regular updates for Rousay resident and pass this information to Hannah for sharing locally, this could include how to spot stoat kits etc. Stoats do not have any effect on goose numbers. Any information could also be place where tourists go, with a contact email or phone number for them to report sightings.

Tom will be drafting his expectations regarding Hannah's role in supporting the project and once agreed with by Hannah/REWDT it is hoped a productive relationship can speed up the response. Tom is waiting to hear about further funding becoming available for Rousay and will let Hannah know if it is confirmed.

3. **Lloyd's update –** Lloyd has had to hand in his resignation due to a family issue that makes it impossible for him to continue his employment with the REW DT. Lloyd will be able to work from home a little to ensure a reasonable handover, but not for too long. **AP1:** Lloyd to review the CDO job description and circulate for directors to comment upon before the position can be advertised. Lloyd to also arrange for the recruitment consultant work to be advertised ASAP. The board discussed the three roles within Lloyd's CDO work, these being: -
   1. CDO (Community Development Officer)
   2. Project Management
   3. Asset Management

   The board discussed the best way to cover the three elements of work; the project management could be contracted out in the way the Davie Campbell supports the Rural Housing Project. **AP2:** Lloyd to approach one resident to see if they are willing to cover the recruitment role, if not this will be advertised.

   The directors expressed their thanks for everything Lloyd has done for the REW DT and fully understood his reasons for having to leave.

4. **Minutes of the Board Meeting held on Monday 05 May 2026** - The Minutes were approved with some minor changes. Proposed by Carole Maguire & Seconded by Lisa Croft.

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

<u>13 December 2025</u>

AP5: Carole to share the RCA hire agreements with Lloyd. **Ongoing.** This has been shared with the RCA office bearers who will provide the prices once the increase is agreed, Carole to chase again.
AP3: Eric to inform the person responsible that the directors expect them to make good the stone wall damage as soon as possible. **Discharged.**

<u>21 February 2026</u>
AP1: Callum asked if the REW DT could have a project that provided residents with solar panels, this could be for a future year's project, Lloyd to look into this. **Ongoing.** Lloyd shared that there is a lot of interest in this idea but will mean that properties will need to be tested and technical advice taken to ensure houses are suitable. Lloyd has spoken to THAW, Aquatera and Home Energy Scotland. The idea would be instead of offering a Fuel Grant annually the REW DT could contribute to the costs of installation if external organisations are involved and provide the majority of the costs. Eric suggested we look into covering the turbine site hill with solar panels and get any FITS payments plus sale of electricity provided by these. This could help with post turbine income. Richard suggested that **AP3:** Lloyd research the possibility of offering to fill any cost gap for external organisations fitting solar panels and **REWIRED Ltd.** look into the ideas of solar panels at the turbine site. **Ongoing.**

<u>23 March 2026</u>
AP1: Kayleigh to send her previous pay paper to Christine. **Ongoing.**
AP3: Lloyd research the possibility of offering to fill any cost gap for external organisations fitting solar panels to REW properties and **REWIRED Ltd.** look into the ideas of solar panels at the turbine site. **Ongoing.**
AP4: Lloyd to ensure the Pier Restaurant costed budget and plan is with the board ASAP including any contingency costs. **Ongoing.**
AP5: Lloyd to get a quote for the Wi-Fi system (resilience) for the board to consider at the next board meeting. **Ongoing.**
AP6: Peter to speak to Robert to get the SSEN way leave agreed. **On going.**
AP8: Eric to contact Carey re Wi-Fi connections at the School, use of these in the gym and if the School is a resilience, Hub. **Ongoing.**

<u>04 May 2026</u>
AP1: Lloyd to speak to the Trading subsidiary board regarding what additional work is needed at the Taversoe and agree who will be approached re doing this. Lloyd to ensure Josh & Tania know who to contact in an emergency if anything unpredictable happens. Lloyd to also see if the Trading subsidiary would like a flow chart on how the building will be managed regarding maintenance. **Ongoing,** there is a meeting next week.

AP2: Carole to go to the Taversoe as there are poisonous plants in the garden that if eaten by Josh & Tania's dog, could be harmful. **Discharged.**
AP3: Lloyd to share the Bread Shed idea at AGM Road Show and if there is interest will prepare a detailed costed proposal for board approval.
Ongoing.
AP4: Lloyd will get some logo stickers to show who has funded the bike shelter. **Ongoing.**
AP5: Lloyd to check to see if either Davie Cambell or Billy Groundwater can help with the septic tank improvements issue at the Waterfront site. **Ongoing,** Lloyd has names of people but is having difficulties getting any replies, Lloyd to see if Davie can help.
AP6: Helen to ensure the sliding pay scale is on the 6 month budget review meeting agenda. **Ongoing.**
AP7: Richard to inform the board by the 01 June meeting if he is happy to stand down, if not Callum has said he will. **Discharged.** Richard will email Helen his resignation and if he wishes to stand for re-election.

6. **Declaration of Interests** –None declared.

7. **REWIRED Update –**
Productivity at the turbine for the past 3 months:

2025/26	Actual Productivity (kWh)	% Productivity (against 37% target)	% Curtailment (against 7% expectation)
February	326,654	50.41%	18.4%
March	422,605	65.22%	8.7%
April	295,586	45.62	4.2%

A few technical glitches held productivity back a little last month, but Enercon's communication was excellent. They had issue with ferry capacity but got to the site as soon as they were able. They are out again this week replacing a part and we can look forward to a quiet, trouble-free summer The curtailment level of 4.2% is the lowest REWIRED have seen since the ANM system was introduced.

Due to various commitments, the REWIRED board were unable to meet in person to elect a new vice-chair, Carolyne put herself forward and has been unanimously approved. As Eric is new to the REWIRED Ltd. board, he would have preferred to meet in person in the future. **AP3:** Grant to arrange a REWIRED Ltd. in person board meeting so that Eric can meet everyone and understand their roles etc.

Laura needs to get signatories updated at the Co-op Bank, all board members required to do this have been informed and have been supplied with the relevant forms etc.

Mark shared that REWIRED Ltd. is the first group in Orkney to a side agreement for Licence Exempt Supply (under the new P442 regulation provisions), which could/should result in increased payments on top of the wholesale PPA price that we will get at the end of the 12 month period.

8. Grants. –

8.1 **UHI Archaeology Institute**, £2,000.00 for to support open day, training support and outreach at the summer archaeological excavations at Skaill farmstead (6-24 July 2026). Approved with no conditions.

8.2 **Egilsay Summer Dance Group** – requested an increase to the previously approved General Grant due to increases in the ferry fares, and not receiving the full amount they requested from the REW & G CC. They would like an increase of £1,250.00, to cover the increase in ferry fares, food for those attending and the insurance for the event. The group are holding the dance for free (no entrance fees) and also not charging for the ferry fares to Egilsay and back. They have not from the correspondence received, asked the Egilsay Community Association to contribute either. The board discussed this request and voted three in favour, one abstaining and six against an increase to the original offer. However, the board would like to know if ECA has been approached for funding and if they have, what the reasons were for not financially helping to hold an event on Egilsay for the community. Could ECA give a letter of support for the event? Would the Summer Event Group be willing to charge an entry fee and ask for people to pay for the or individual ferry fares? Once the group has these answers, please can they come back to the board for them to reconsider any increase to the original grant awarded.
It was noted that the community group grant offer is for £1,000 per year but this is to cover ether an event (or two) and could also help support the groups running costs during the year. A group cannot apply for two awards over a two year period but only hold one event.

8.3 **Board Decision Protocol** – The board considered the idea put forward and agreed this could be used for all staff, not just those working with grants. After careful consideration, the board agreed that in exceptional circumstances if staff need to discuss further anything that the board needs to ratify between meetings, they are to call a director TEAMS meeting, giving a week's notice and all papers/queries relating to the situation with the meeting request.

Providing the TEAMS meeting is quorate, a decision can then be made or more information requested.

9. CDO`s Report /Projects

9.1. Affordable Housing – Water and electricity connections have been completed to the site at Johnstons Road. We still do not have title so do not have precise details of plot boundaries, which we need to see if we own enough land to install the arco barrier on the road verge. Lows are chasing this for us with the OHAL solicitors.
We will canvas at the AGM for volunteers to help draft the local lettings policy for Trust affordable housing. The policy will have to conform to law and local regulations, but there is some flexibility within these rules for a local focus. The board agreed to go with the original lettings policy and agreed to share these criteria at the AGM, but **AP4:** Lloyd to share the lettings criteria and policy with Davie Campbell first to ensure it meets all current legal requirements prior to the AGM.

9.2 The Taversoe - Kitchen ceiling repairs quote: £3123.69 approved by the Board.
Lloyd would like a policy on working with/between 2 Boards now that REW Trading is operational. This will have to compromise between level of financial control and levels of trust/discretion. **AP5:** Lloyd to table the joint working policy between the new trading subsidiary and the DT at the next board meeting. It would be useful to have a Board-level review of what the Trust wants as the long-term outcome for the Taversoe, this to be raised at the next subsidiary director meeting including a to-do list for the subsidiary directors to use at meetings. Mark offered his support if needed. Peter would like to see the social value and making a profit as the main details the REW DT would like to hear about. The reporting suggestions must come to the REW DT board for comments, but the subsidiary board must have control over the finances (P & L reports) and have a transparent relationship, perhaps using a traffic light system for reporting, similar to REWIRED Ltd. reports. The REW DT will need to transfer the employment of Josh & Tania to the subsidiary group at some point.
Josh and Tania have prepared some suggestions about medium to long term outcomes, shared in the accompanying document. They highlight four possible suggestions, all involving them fully taking on the Taversoe sooner rather than later. **AP6:** Lloyd to bring Josh & Tania's suggestions for taking over the Taversoe sooner to the next board meeting. **AP:7** Lloyd to ask at the AGM for non-REW DT directors for the REW DT Trading Company board. The new board has elected Tim Wood as the Chair & Chris Jacques as the Vice-Chair,

Tim would like the financial figures to be done on a quarterly basis rather than monthly for the RW DT board.

9.3 Pier Restaurant – BREAD SHED: Lloyd will work with Josh & Tania to develop a detailed and costed proposal for a community kitchen project at the Pier Restaurant. We have floated this idea with OIC (CDF and CLLD), who were very supportive and also want to see more details. It may be another month before we can have a proposal ready.
The Pier Restaurant has been used for a couple of local events, and we have had some encouraging feedback from people who attended, particularly in terms of people being pleased to see it being used again.

9.4 Community Transport – All new bikes are out, except the trike which still has not arrived. Josh is suggesting a Wednesday old-person's lunchtime trip to the Taversoe with the bus going round the island picking people up and then dropping them off again afterwards. **AP:8** Lisa/Grant to raise the offer of an 'older person' lunch on a Wednesday at the Taversoe at the next subsidiary board meeting. It was noted that the Triangle Club organises similar events for residents, and that perhaps they should be involved in any new lunch at the Taversoe

9.5 Waterfront Development - Norman's Shed is being used by several groups. We have installed the old Taversoe benches in the shed, but they need to find a new home or should be removed. The shed should preferably be used for activities rather than for long-term storage of unused items. Currently the shed has a lot of crockery and glassware that could be used in the Pier Restaurant for events. Lisa has asked for the plant tags for the Schol Garden.

9.6 Trumland Estate - The application to the Lottery is being assessed by them now and we expect a funding decision by mid-June.

9.7 Other Activities – Lloyd shared that we have been invited to OIC's Community Planning Partnership's Equality Delivery Group workshop looking at ways in which ferry-linked islands could be better served or are missing out on services and opportunities. **AP9:** Directors to let Lloyd know if they would like to attend the Planning Partnership Group event at the Balfour June 5th 11.30.
Lloyd said that we have been asked to resubmit our application for funding to run a local place plan process here. Lloyd will do this in collaboration with the Community Council.
HMRC has revised the approved mileage rates upwards. The new rate for cars and vans is now £0.55 a mile for the first 10,000 miles in a year (£0.25 a mile thereafter). The old rate of £0.45 had been in place since

2011; the Trust has used the HMRC approved rate previously. The board approved the increase to the mileage rate for staff travel.
Christine Briggs finishes working for the Trust this month. Lloyd thanked her for the support and advice she has given us with updating and reviewing our operating systems and policies. The board all wished to thank Christine too for her work on policies, quality and previous the transport project.
Policy updates – The board asked for these to be deferred to the next meeting.

10 **Administration, Finance & Office**

10.1 **One Membership** forms received. Board approved.

10.2 **Finance** – due to the Company Secretary being on annual leave no spreadsheet was shared prior to the meeting.

11 AOB

11.1 Solar Power & Repowering – Mark asked if he could go through this at the next board meeting, the board agreed.

11.2 Helen asked for additional meeting dates to be planned, the board agreed for these to be on Monday 17 August and for Helen to bring ideas for next 12 months of meetings to the July board for approval.

11.3 Lisa said she would be happy to help with the recruitment for the new CDO position.

Next Two Board Meetings, at The Pier Cabin –

- Monday 13 July @ 19:00
- Monday 17 August @ 19:00

AGM will be held on Saturday 20 June 2026, Roadshow opening at 09:30 and AGM meeting starting at 11:00, held at Rousay School.

Summary of Action Points.

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<u>Acronym List</u>

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