

## Minutes from Harlaw Hydro Annual General Meeting

St Joseph's Hall 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 7:30pm

### Present

18 members

### Apologies

14 members

## Annual General Meeting

### Chairman's Remarks – Martin Petty (slides 4 and 5)

Welcome to our fifth AGM. It's good to remind ourselves that our society was

- Initiated in . .
- Funded by . . and is
- Managed by . . people in the Community.

In a world where it always seems to be someone else's job and for it to be someone else's fault when things go wrong we are very fortunate to have a board that happily and professionally look after such things as the finance, the greasing of the bearings, the data communications, the insurance, the security cameras, the Power Purchase Agreement etc.

On an on-going basis there are principally three operational activities; managing the water supply, routine maintenance and keeping the communications working.

### Maintenance

Maintenance at present is still confined to adding a precise amount of grease to the generator bearings each month; this is faithfully carried out by 2 of our number Tsjerk and Alister.

An hydroelectric system has very few moving parts and therefore is generally very reliable. This is very fortunate because we have yet to have a full maintenance service. Kestral, our equipment supplier, are reliant on someone else to carry out the mechanical servicing and it has taken a considerable amount of time and patience (ours) to get agreement to carry out the maintenance, to agree to resolve warranty issues and for Kestral to identify people capable of doing the mechanical maintenance.

In the interval we have approached Gilkes, a British turbine manufacturer, and after much phoning and prodding have a maintenance proposal from them but with a number of question marks as the proposal doesn't relate properly to our equipment despite a detailed site inspection.

However there has been some progress:-

- The lifting cradle has been built, installed and is ready for use.
- The control panel has been serviced.
- Kestral, our equipment supplier, has secured replacement bolts for the rusty ones in the turbine casing and has identified an engineer capable of servicing the turbine and generator.

The plan is to continue to press Kestral for our first service (part of the procurement contract) and the warranty work and then to re-assess the situation prior to establishing an on-going maintenance contract.

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### Water Supply

This has been a good year with more water than last year enabling us to generate approx. 330,000 kWh vs 260,000 kWh for 2016/17. This of course means more revenue and more surplus for the community.

However lest we get carried away and think that every year will be like this slide 5 gives the meteorological office's picture of Winter rainfall over the last 3 years. White matches the average for 1981 to 2010 the darker the blue the further above the average and the darker the brown the further below the average, in short there is a wide variation.

### Communications and Security Cameras

The system is remotely managed, the meter is read remotely, the power meter on the website is updated every 5 minutes and the security cameras are monitored remotely so communications are operationally important. For many communications is one of the black arts, fortunately we have a master of the art and reliable communications, although the camera recording has required some attention.

### Doors Open Weekend

Following the suggestion at the 2016 AGM HH took part in the 2017 Edinburgh's Doors Open weekend. The weekend went very successfully, with a considerable number of people being shown round the powerhouse; all the local organisations joined in ie Friends of Pentlands, BVT, Youth Vision, Pentland Regional Park and Malleny Angling Association. (Pentland Regional Park have entered the 2018 Doors Open programme with the same group of participants.)

### The Community Benefit

At last year's AGM we agreed to donate £10,000 to BVT, this was supplemented by approx. £2,000 from members who donated their interest to the BVT for the benefit of the community.

### Accounts – Gordon Grassick (slides 6 -13)

- The P&L, Revenue Comparison, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow were presented and highlights described. The significant rise in revenue £94k vs £60k in 2017, has enabled the society to clear most of the structural deficit on the Balance Sheet and donate £20,000 to BVT for work in the community.
- The following Financial Provisions, Members Interest and Surplus to BVT were approved
  - Repairs Provision - £3,000
  - Repayment Provision - £3,000
  - Members Interest - £16,000
  - Donation to BVT - £20,000Proposed by Simon Dormer and Seconded by Keith Taylor
- The Accounts were approved.  
Proposed by Simon Dormer and Seconded by Andrew Clark
- The verification of accounts and Gordon Mavor as verifier were approved.  
Proposed by Josephine Bisacre and Seconded by Jill Gillard
- At the 2017 AGM the board agreed to look at how best to manage the cash balance. The proposal is
  - To invest a proportion of the available cash with ethical and probably green energy organisations. This one will be done in such a way so as to ensure
    - that HH is not short of working capital and that

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- cash is available should an emergency arise
  - Expert advice will be sought from an IFA before any investment is made.
- Proposed by Alister Skinner and Seconded by Keith Taylor

### Election of Board Members – (slides 14-16)

- Retiring by rotation – Mike Molleson and Alister Skinner
- Appointed by BVT – Richard McLeod, Lynn Molleson and ANO
- Nominated for election
  - Mike Molleson - nominated by Josephine Bisacre, seconded by Simon Dormer
  - Alister Skinner - nominated by Keith Taylor, seconded by Simon Dormer
  - Martin Petty – nominated by Andrew Clark, seconded by Jill Gillard

### End of the Formal part of the AGM

#### General Data Protection Regulation – (slide 17)

- Harlaw Hydro Limited's policy on data protection is to use the data we hold on society members solely for the purpose of membership communications.
- We never share personal details with third parties.
- Should you have any queries about the information we hold on you, please contact the Company Secretary.

#### Community Chest – (slide 18)

The joint venture between Currie Balerno Rotary and Balerno Village Trust intimated at the 2017 AGM is now operational. 8 awards were made in January 2018 and a further 8 in June 2018 awarding a total of £6,000 (£3,000. donated by Rotary, £2,000 donated by Cala and £1,000 from BVT, 10% of money received from HH).

#### Balerno Village Trust– Keith Taylor (slides 19-39)

Keith Taylor (Chairman of BVT) told the meeting about the various BVT events and activities described in the slides.

Minuted by Martin Petty