

EKREG

Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday 19th January, 2021

Present: Alasdair Bennett ('Chair'), Jerry Barnes, Rhona Elder and Rob Lee

Venue: Remote working: conference via Zoom

1. Apologies for Absence

- None applicable

2. Minutes and actions agreed/outstanding at previous meeting (Tuesday 5th January)

- No actions remain outstanding

3. Treasurers' Report

- Management accounts were approved. No interim transactions to report.

4. Correspondence with wind farm operators/developers

- No updates to report

5. CSO

- Model Rules/Ben Comm

Discussions focused on the planned launch of the Ben Comm, and ways in which remaining gaps to launch could be closed. It was agreed that name and branding should be agreed in advance of the next meeting with a view to actioning registration soon as confirmation is received from the CCs that the forthcoming offer to be made by SPR is acceptable to the parties involved [**Action: ALL**].

- Funding Streams

It was agreed that the Ethex crowdfunding platform and post-money registry services afford an attractive means of raising a proportion of the capital required to achieve the objective of shared ownership in BaT3. Timelines were discussed and the potential advantages of launching a community share offer, later refinancing an element of the bank loans drawn-down via a subsequent IFISA-wrapped bond offer (via Ethex) agreed. RL generously offered to begin building an outline of the CSO offer for further development and evolution [**Action: RL**].

JB/RL reported on their positive discussions with Morven@ Community Shares Scotland (CSS). She proffered as much support as she could personally give to the project. CSS also have funds available, that she administers, to assist with developing the share offer (6 full days' of targeted consultancy support plus £5K grant assistance). Grant forms have already been obtained.

Still, no further feedback had been received from Scottish Government following the approach made by RL to Mike Russell MSP who had chased the Minister on behalf of EKREG with regard to accessing PWLB funding for community-based renewable projects in Scotland. Feedback is awaited from the Minister.

- FLS/MCS Update

A most disappointing response had been received from FLS to the Freedom of Information request filed by JB, who identified Grogport-Deucheran to be the only FLS land in Kintyre opened-up to development offers in the latest EO. No information had been provided, as requested, for the rest of Argyll and no lands were

able to be identified that had received interest from developers as this was considered 'confidential information'. A response to the FoI receipt had been made by JB on behalf of EKREG, but no further action or communication on this subject was anticipated to be received from FLS.

6. BaT3

- No further communication had been received from SPR with regard HoTs associated with BaT3 nor the outstanding wording of NDA. AB agreed to chase for an update, yet again [**Action: ALL**].
- **LES/CARES Grant/Tender documentation**
Additional candidates for the tender exercise had been identified
- **CC Charitable Bodies**
An element of the meeting was devoted to planning the inaugural/first board meeting of the East Kintyre Community Fund (EKCF) – one of the three charities that will be the recipient of funds from BaT3, via the planned Ben Comm. The Trustees are: Ian Brodie & Trish Collins (EKCC), Alasdair Bennett & Rob Lee (EKREG) plus 2 community representatives (Shelagh Cameron [Carradale] & Ellie McKay [Peninver]). Date to be agreed and Agenda circulated [**Action: AB**]

7. Communications & Marketing

- Marketing

No updates to report

- Engagement Strategy

No updates to report.

- Briefings/CC MoUs

Following a presentation made to T&S Development Trust (T&S CC's delegated authority for windfarm CBF & CSO), and resulting discussions, a signed MoU had been received actioning EKREG to act on their behalf, as with the other Kintyre CCs supported by EKREG, in all matters pertaining to Community Shared Ownership in approved windfarm developments. It was agreed that AB should recontact SK with a view to advancing their MoU sign-off asap [**Action: AB**].

- Website

It was agreed that a page should be added to the East Kintyre website to accommodate the impending launch of EKCF [**Action: RE**]

8. Governance

- No updates to report

9. AOB

- No other matters were tabled at the meeting

10. **DONM:** Tuesday 2nd February 2021, 09.30 via Zoom [AB to host]