

# EKREG

## Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

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

Venue: Remote working: conference via Zoom

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### 1. Apologies for Absence

- None

### 2. Minutes and actions outstanding at previous meeting (Tues 12<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2023)

- Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

### 3. Treasurers' Report

- Full reimbursement of legal costs associated with the protracted negotiation of the NDA with RWE aka Clachaig Glen had been received from LES via the awarded CARES grant. An up-to-date bank statement was reviewed and approved at the meeting.

### 4. Correspondence with wind farm operators/developers

- Meetings had been scheduled with RES and E Power to discuss CSO and CBFs associated with their planned developments at Killean and Coalashee (near Tayinloan)

### 5. Lussa Community Wind [LCW]/CC Charitable Bodies (EKCF, WKCF & CCWF)

- Lussa Community Wind.  
A response was still awaited from SPR following the requested clarification (sent) with regard a few specific donations made by the Anchor Charities from their 2022-23 budgets.
- East Kintyre Community Fund (EKCF).  
The next call for applications will open February 2024. Applications are invited from projects meeting the funding criteria, See <https://www.eastkintyre.org/east-kintyre-community-fund/> for further information.

### 6. ESB – West Torrisdale (WT)

- A response from ESB remains outstanding in connection with the Chairs communique to clarify the situation over planning submissions and gauge progress with ESB's planned Section 36 application (originally scheduled for end-June).

### 7. Clachaig Glen (CG)

- Confidential discussions have been instigated aka RWE's planned development at Clachaig Glen.

### 8. High Constellation

- It was agreed the Chair should push BayWa with regard their plans for CBFs, following-up previous discussions where the community's preferences to utilize the structures already established within Kintyre Wind to disseminate funds incoming were clearly iterated [**Action: AB**]

## 9. Cnoc Buidhe (Belltown Power)

- A meeting has been scheduled to provide an update by the developer to all stakeholders

## 10. Earraghail

- The public domain agreement between FLS and SPR upon which this development is based has still not been received by EKREG, despite a follow-up request sent by the Chair

## 11. Communications & Marketing

### - Marketing

Regular updates to the Kintyre Wind website had been completed.

### - Engagement Strategy

The 'Share the Wind' petition (PE1885/C) promoting mandatory community shared ownership in Scottish windfarms via land tax reform – currently being discussed by the Scottish Governments' Citizen Participation and Public Petition Committee – is due to be tabled Wed Oct 25<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully a constructive response from the new Energy Minister, Gillian Martin, who – having seemingly accepted that this matter is worthy of further exploration – will have been received and will be tabled at this hearing.

### - Communications

A meeting date had been established to update Jenni Minto MSP on windfarm activities and advance her support for Kintyre Wind activity

## 12. Governance

- RL had obtained the required application forms from East and West Kintyre Windfarm Trusts and will submit applications, on behalf of EKREG, prior to the deadlines applicable in order to ensure EKREG administrative costs can be met moving forward.

## 13. AOB

- Discussion focused on the details and relevance of the UK-wide 45% windfall tax imposed on major developers, levied by the Westminster Govt. until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2028, to EKREG endeavors to establish CSO partnerships to benefit locally-impacted communities. Rising operational costs (mainly associated with turbines and their reliability) were also noted as this is proving a significant concern across the industry and leading to a down-turn in share values/market confidence across this sector.
- RL reported on his participation in a webinar organized by SEN to discuss impacts of their planned expansion of the grid network to accommodate the major increase anticipated in renewable power exported from Western Scotland. The plans for pylon-based carriage of power across Scotland versus below-ground transmission south of the border attracted vociferous concerns expressed by the 500+ participants.
- The latest concordat agreed between the Scottish Government and windfarm developers with regard CBFs was noted, discussed and significant omissions highlighted.

No other items were tabled for discussion

**DONM:** Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2023, 09.00 [virtual meeting: Zoom]