

EKREG Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 26th August 2020

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 (Wednesday, 12th August)

- One matter remained outstanding and that was to follow-up discussions between LES/CARES and A&BC executive with regard accessing PWLB loans [**Action: JB**]

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 - FCA Update

Guidance notes and associated documentation had been evolved to make available 'Rob's' multi-community BennComm Rules' via the EK website. All documentation had been shared with partner CCs.

- Funding Streams

Encouraging dialogue was reported by JB between the A&BC executive and LES/CARES. Whilst further discussions were required for finances to be accessed through Public Works and Loan Board(PWLB) funds via A&BC, and alternate proposition had been tabled that would achieve the same outcome, at least for Bat3 investment by the community. **Action: JB**

A detailed response to RL's communication to Scottish Ministers over community access to funds to support their buy into renewable energy developments via access to PWLB funds and other government vehicles was still awaited.

- FLS/MCS Update

- No updates to report

6. BaT3

AB reported that he had spoken with Gillian Arnott at SPR and that HoTs were currently behind schedule and were presently expected to be released to the CCs involved 4Q20 (probably November)

- LES/CARES Grant/Tender documentation

- No updates to report

- **CC Charitable Bodies**

Much of the meeting was spent reviewing and finalizing the documentation produced by RL to underpin the registration and governance of the EK Charity to be established (and prospectively mirrored by other participating local CCs) to facilitate the dissemination of funds incoming from windfarm activities to priority projects associated with the CAP/LDP. RL was thanked for his taking the lead on this significant piece of work. The next action would be to run the documentation past OSCR to ensure they are comfortable presubmission. **[Action: RL]**

- **C-19 and other concerns**

- No updates to report

7. **Clachaig Glen (RWE/Abundance)**

- No updates to report

8. **Tangy IV**

- No updates to report

9. **NDA Update**

- No updates to report

10. **Communications & Marketing**

- **Marketing**

A press release to highlight EKREG activity and the approval of the multi-community - BenComm Rules plus the benefits associated, and dissemination of the groups' FCA-approved BennComm Rules via the website was being advanced in the background. **[Action: RE et al.]**

- Naming and branding for the EK Charity would be evolved prior to the next meeting **[Action: all]**

- **Engagement Strategy**

Charity documentation would be introduced to the partnering CCs prior to the next meeting **[Action: RL/AB]**

- **Briefings/CC MoUs**

No updates to report

- **Website**

Pages were being developed to facilitate the release of multi-community BennComm Rules via the website **[Action: RE]**

11. **AOB**

No other matters were tabled at this meeting

12. **DONM:** Wednesday 9th September, 10.00 via Zoom [JB to host]