

EKREG

Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday 22nd February, 2022

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

Venue: Remote working: conference via Zoom

1. Apologies for Absence

- Rhona Elder

2. Minutes and actions outstanding at previous meeting (Tues 8th February)

- No matters outstanding

3. Treasurers' Report

- There were no transactions to report. An up-to-date bank statement was tabled and approved at the meeting.

4. Correspondence with wind farm operators/developers

- No fresh correspondence to report other than that associated with matters outlined below aka BaT3, West Torrisdale and Cnoc Buidhe.

5. SPR- BaT3

- **SPR/Iberdrola**

A final version of the community benefit agreement for BaT3 was expected to be received from SPR legal team for sign off.

- **Community Investment Vehicle: Lussa Community Wind [LCW] Ltd**

Additional correspondence had been required to establish LCW as a vendor on SPRs financial/accounting system

- **LES/CARES Grant/Tender documentation**

RL had registered the planned developments by Belltown Power (Lussa Loch) and ESB (West Torrisdale) with LES to pave the way to CARES grant support. A 'small grant' (upto £5K) had been flagged by LES to assist with legal support for early stage agreements with ESB should it be required.

6. ESB – West Torrisdale

- A meeting was scheduled to develop a 'road map' following the next ESB Executive Board meeting at which a redrafted memorandum of understanding (MoU) establishing the key principles of a CSO agreement and emphasizing the communities desire to own upto 15% of the equity in the development, should it be consented, was to be tabled.

7. Belltown Power - Cnoc Buidhe

- Following-up on an action agreed at the first meeting with Belltown Power, RL had communicated with the developer over potential means to service the local communities with reduced cost power via the establishment of a virtual private network

and/or other schemes with regard their proposed 150-200MW windfarm development on FLS land at Cnoc Buidhe (West of Lussa Loch).

8. CC Charitable Bodies

- The online application and reporting forms for the first round of EKCF-disseminated funding had been finalized and were ready for launch as and when the first tranche of CBF funding was received

9. Communications & Marketing

- Marketing

Routine updates had been made to the eastkintyre.org website.

- Engagement Strategy

A date was awaited for the retabling of the community petition entitled 'Share the Wind' (PE1885/C) promoting mandatory community shared ownership in Scottish windfarms via tax reform applicable to developers. The petition received significant support when tabled for a second hearing by the Scottish Governments' Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee on 2nd February 2022. Appropriate Minister(s) will be invited to be questioned at the next hearing. The aim of the petition: to gain a fair and just financial outcome for communities impacted by renewable energy developments. The positive discussion at the last hearing (@11.10) is archived @ <https://www.scottishparliament.tv/>.

- Briefings/CC MoUs

No updates to report

10. Governance

The financial year end approaches for both EKREG and LCW [**Actions agreed: AB/JB**].

11. AOB

No other matters were tabled at the meeting

DONM: Tues 8th March, 2022, 09.30 [virtual meeting: Zoom]