

# EKREG Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2021

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

Venue: Remote working: conference via Zoom

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## 1. Apologies for Absence

- None applicable

## 2. Minutes and actions agreed/outstanding at previous meeting (Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February)

- No actions remain outstanding

## 3. Treasurers' Report

- Management accounts were approved. One interim transaction was reported – the payment of £40 (to be recovered from LES/CARES grant) to the FCA to facilitate registration of BaT3 commercial investment vehicle: Lussa Community Wind Ltd. (a multi-community Benefit Society)

## 4. Correspondence with wind farm operators/developers

- Correspondence had been received from ESB (a major Irish utilities-provider) with regard their intent to apply for a scoping study, with a view to an application for planning consent, for the construction of a 12-turbine windfarm (149m tip height ~60MW installed capacity) at West Torrisdale (on private land bridging the ridge above Torrisdale Castle). Concern was expressed about the visual impact of this development on a part of East Kintyre heavily reliant on tourism for income and as yet largely unimpacted by windfarms located elsewhere across the region, the potential ornithological impacts (as the windfarm impinges on eagle fly zones) and noise pollution, amongst other considerations. EKREG were liaising with EKCC aka this development. A meeting with the developer had been scheduled involving both EKCC and EKREG.

## 5. CSO

### - Model Rules/Ben Comm

Application had been made to the FCA to register the commercial investment vehicle (CIV) for BaT3 'Lussa Community Wind Ltd.' It was anticipated that registration should take in the order of 15 days as the model rules adopted have already been approved by the FCA.

### - Funding Streams

CSS micro-grant (£5K) spend expectations had been qualified and application forms obtained with a view to lodging an application in the foreseeable future to cover marketing expenditure allied to the BaT3 share offer. Marketing opportunities/strategies were discussed to optimize both local and national outreach. It was agreed that mailshot costs via social media and traditional postal services should be costed to aid decision-making downstream [**Action: RE & JB**].

No further communication had been received from the Scottish Government following the approach made by RL to Mike Russell MSP who had chased Paul Wheelhouse's office on behalf of EKREG for clarification on access to PWLB funding for community-based renewable projects in Scotland. Feedback is awaited from the Minister.

## 6. BaT3

- **SPR/Iberdola**

A meeting with Gillian Arnott (SPR) and Senior Executives at Abundance (Karl Harder and Louise Wilson) assisted SPRs appreciation of the community's issues with the tabled NDA and surrounding modus operandi. Unfortunately no one from SPRs legal section attended the meeting so little could be achieved to propel the agenda forward.

Due to unforeseen problems on site the 'go live' date for BaT3 has reportedly slipped, and is now likely to be 3Q21.

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

Given the lack of feedback on EKREG comments on SPRs NDA (now >4 months) it was agreed that RL and JB should contact LES/CARES, potential tenderers and potential investors (SNIB, EiF, Triodos etc) to see if they would be willing to sign up to back-to-back NDA arrangements based on the document received from SPR [Action: RL & JB].

- **CC Charitable Bodies**

The inaugural meeting of the East Kintyre Community Fund (EKCF) had been re-scheduled [Action: AB]

## 7. Clachaig Glen

Concerns were expressed about RWE's revised plans for CG which involves an increase in turbine tip-heights from 149m to 180m, as a consequence every turbine mast will need to bare a 'red' aviation safelight. This will considerably increase the night-time impact of the masts, and be especially visible to residents astride the A83 and on Gigha. RWE had qualified that, if consented, CG would be connected to the grid via Carradale sub-station. The exact route of the cable had not yet been confirmed but the expectation was that it will follow the existing line to Deucheran Hill windfarm. Any/all enquiries should be addressed to [Nicholas.taylor@rwe.com](mailto:Nicholas.taylor@rwe.com) (t. 01224 060326). There is also an open consultation room on their webpage: [www.rwe.com/clachaig-glen](http://www.rwe.com/clachaig-glen)

## 8. Cour

An allocation of £10K from the Cour Windfarm community benefit payments, made by Fern Community Trust (managed by Octopus) to NE Kintyre Regional Trust was under investigation [Action: AB].

## 7. Communications & Marketing

- **Marketing**

A meeting was scheduled for a presentation to be made on marketing styles and approaches [Action: RL]

- **Engagement Strategy**

No updates to report.

- **Briefings/CC MoUs**

It was agreed that AB should recontact SKCC with a view to advancing their MoU sign-off as soon as there is visibility on the current lock-down being lifted to allow a face-to-face meeting to take place [**Action: AB**].

- **Website**

Considerable progress had been made, and new software acquired, with the frame, 'feel' and text for the 'Kintyre Wind' website [**Action: RE**].

8. **Governance**

- No updates to report

9. **AOB**

- No other matters were tabled at the meeting

10. **DONM:** Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021, 09.30 via Zoom