

EKREG Meeting Minutes

Date: Wed. 26th February, 2025

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

Venue: Remote working: conference via Zoom

1. Apologies for Absence

- None

2. Minutes and actions outstanding at previous meeting (Wed. 29th January, 2025)

- Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. There were no significant actions outstanding.

3. Treasurers' Report

- Only routine bank charges were incurred since the last meeting. An up-to-date bank statement was reviewed and approved at the meeting.

4. Correspondence with wind farm operators/developers

- A request to Energie Kontor to conduct a public consultation exercise at Carradale Village Hall, similar to that hosted at Glenbarr Mission Hall on Feb 5th in relation to their proposal to construct Allt Domhain windfarm, had received a positive response from the developer. A date for this consultation event is awaited.
- Notification had been received that Earraghail wind farm (between Skipness and Tarbert) had been refused planning permission by the Scottish Ministers following public inquiry. The proposed development comprised a combination of 13 turbines, solar arrays and battery storage (delivering upto 108 MW generation capacity). The key factor determining the outcome of the inquiry was the adverse impact of this development on the special landscape qualities associated with the North Arran National Scenic Area, the cumulative impacts of this development on top of those existing/consented on the regional landscape and the opposition raised by the locally-impacted communities.

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

- Lussa Community Wind.

The secretary and treasurer were liaising over the disbursement of funds agreed to the Society's anchor charities prior to the year-end [**Action: JB/AB**].

- Community Funds (EKCF/CCWF/WKCF).

The next funding round for the East Kintyre Community Fund was open to applications, which must be received for consideration in this application round before 7th March. The fund is now in a position to support bursaries for East Kintyre residents' professional development, in addition to its core remit. For further information see www.eastkintyre.org

For up to date information on/application details/contact points for WKCF and CCWF see www.kintyrewind.com

6. West Torrisdale

A public consultation event convened by ESB took place at Carradale Village Hall on February 11th – local residents had received an invite at short notice by post. The Section 36 application (ECU00002224) proposes to construct a windfarm at West Torrisdale (above Torrisdale Castle) comprising 9 turbines up to 150m in height positioned on the East side of the Kintyre ridge. Photomontages and impact portfolios are available for consultation in Carradale Village Hall and via the energy consents unit website (www.energyconsents.scot using the ref ECU 00002224). Further information can be accessed at www.esbenergy.co.uk/west-torrisdale-wind-farm

7. Clachaig Glen

No updates to report

8. Killean and Tangy IV

No updates to report

9. Cnoc Buidhe (Belltown Power)

No updates to report.

10. High Constellation

No updates to report.

11. Communications & Marketing

- **Marketing**

Routine website updates had been completed, and correspondence responded to.

Engagement Strategy

There were no updates to report on the 'Share the Wind' petition (PE1885/C) promoting mandatory community shared ownership in Scottish windfarms via land tax reform. The latest hearing of the petition by the Scottish Governments' Citizen Participation and Public Petition Committee can be viewed at: [Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee | Scottish Parliament TV](#). The petitioner had chased the committee as to progress.

- **Communications**

A response was still awaited from the civil servants with whom EKREG were liaising with regard an update meeting in connection with ongoing behind-the-scenes activity allied to changing government policy on community ownership. It was agreed that JB would again chase those involved [**Action: JB**]

A consultation exercise, organized via Local Energy Scotland, to feed into Scottish Government policy via research driven by the Energy Trust on developer experiences/interactions and issues arising with community shared ownership negotiations had been scheduled for March 4th

12. Governance

No matters outstanding

13. AOB

No other matters were raised for discussion

DONM: Mon 10th March, 2025. 08.30 [virtual meeting: Zoom]