

EKREG Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 29th July 2020

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

Venue: Remote working: video conference via Zoom

1. Apologies for Absence

- None applicable

2. Minutes and actions agreed/outstanding at previous meeting (Wednesday, 15th July)

- No actions remain outstanding

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

Notification had been received from the FCA that 'Rob's Rules' had been approved and the fee paid to enable their registration; allowing EKREG Ltd. to become an approved body to sponsor and administer these novel multi-community BenComm rules to benefit Scottish communities.

Discussion followed as to whether and what charge might be applied to external communities wishing to access the new Multi-Community Rules, and how best to make them available for use by others in a controlled manner via the website. Guidance notes and associated documentation are under development. **Action: RL**

- Funding Streams

Dialogue with the A&BC executive had resulted in their contacting LES/CARES for discussions over further exploration of the opportunities afforded by the Public Works and Loan Board (PWLB). RL had also established ministerial contact with regard the PWLB opportunity. Discussions with Kirknewton Development Trust had highlighted another opportunity to be explored aka PWLB. **Action: JB** to follow-up with LES/KDT

- FLS/MCS Update

With the required support from the community, CCT/EKCC had registered formal interest with the Scottish Government to purchase the non-leased elements of Carradale Forest with a view to the development of the forest as envisioned in the local development plan.

6. BaT3

- LES/CARES Grant/Tender documentation

- No updates to report

- **CC Charitable Bodies**

- No updates to report

- **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**

- Contact had been re-established. **Action: JB**

10. **Communications & Marketing**

- **Marketing**

A press release to highlight EKREG activity and the approval of the multi-community BenComm Rules plus the benefits associated, was discussed. It was agreed that such a release should coincide with the launch of the new Rules and associated documentation on the website with a view to achieving national coverage. **Action: RE** (in due course)

- **Engagement Strategy**

A piece for a CCT newsletter had been finalized and approved for circulation (August).

- **Briefings/CC MoUs**

AB reported on his positive safely-distanced meeting at the Kilberry Inn with representatives of South Knapdale and Tarbert & Skipness CCs. It was anticipated, given the dialogue, that a signed-off MoU would be achieved with SK. **Action: AB** to follow up with SK and Gigha over signing of MoUs.

- **Website**

News of the approval of the multi-community Rules would be released on the website. **Action: RE**

11. **AOB**

- RL/JB reported on a positive first meeting (instigated by LES/CARES) with representatives of Kirknewton DT. Several actions outcoming were agreed with regard progression of mutual interests in shared ownership in renewable energy developments and means to fund such community involvement, and a follow-up meeting scheduled 12th August. **Action: RL/JB**

No other matters were tabled at this meeting

12. **DONM**

Wednesday August 12th, 10.00 via Zoom [JB to host]