

EKREG Meeting Minutes

Date: Tues. 22nd April, 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 (Mon 24th March, 2025)

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

3. Treasurers' Report

- There had been only routine bank charges to pay since the last meeting. An up-to-date bank statement was reviewed and approved at the meeting.

4. Correspondence with wind farm operators/developers

Belltown Power have submitted their Section 36 planning application to develop a wind energy hub 2.5km east of Bellochantuy., on the western side of Lussa Forest. The development will comprise 29 turbines with blade tips ranging from 180 to 200m in height, plus significant battery storage to create a renewable energy hub with 300MW capacity. The EIA was submitted to the Scottish Energy Consents Unit early in April (see ECU0000467 at www.energyconsents.scot for further information).

The consultation period in relation to this development will run from 11th April to 19th May. As part of the consultation exercise, the developer will be holding an open event at Glenbarr Village Hall 13.30-19.30 on Tuesday 29th April.

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

- Lussa Community Wind.

The latest quarterly invoice for administration costs had been received and paid

The Chair had contacted the anchor charities for their reports, employing the onerous new SPR reporting templates. Deadline 1 June for receipt by the Chair. The Secretary agreed to chase the Society's accountant for the end of year accounts/reports for submission to Companies House/FCA, respectively.

Actions pertaining to the AGM were discussed. A provisional date of 7th August @18.30 was proposed for the AGM.

- Community Funds (EKCF/CCWF/WKCF).

Jennifer Conley had agreed to become a Trustee of EKCF.

At the latest, recently completed, funding round the East Kintyre Community Fund agreed grants amounting to £95K. 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

No updates to report

7. Clachaig Glen

No updates to report

8. Killean and Tangy IV

No updates to report

9. Cnoc Buidhe (Belltown Power)

See above.

10. High Constellation

No response received from the developer to the Chairs' recent correspondence.

11. Communications & Marketing

- **Marketing**

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

Engagement Strategy

The petition (PE1885) submitted by a local resident to the Scottish Governments Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee, (and supported by EKREG) received its Ninth hearing on 2nd April. The Committee once again supported the proposals and the matter was, once again, referred to the Scottish Government for feedback/action. The minutes of the meeting can be accessed here:

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/committees/current-and-previous-committees/session-6-citizen-participation-and-public-petitions-committee/meetings/2025/citizen-participation-and-public-petitions-committee-02-april-2025>

and a video of recording of the session is available to watch [here](#). The Official Report (a reliable written record of what is said in public meetings) is available on the petition's webpage at: [Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee | Scottish Parliament TV](#).

- **Communications**

Dates had been proposed for a meeting with the civil servants with whom EKREG were liaising with regard an update on behind-the-scenes activity allied to changing government policy on community ownership. The Secretary was tasked with pinning down a meet date [**Action: JB**].

An extensive response had been prepared and submitted by The Chair to the Scottish Governments consultation exercise on Community Benefit Funding.

The Chair had participated in a Workshop organized by Foundation Scotland allied to community benefit funding.

12. Governance

The company's insurance cover is approaching time for renewal. The company's insurance agent is expected to be in contact soon.

The company's accounts must be filed prior to 15th December, 2025. It was agreed that the Secretary would liaise with the company's accountant over the preparation of the annual accounts when the timing was appropriate.

13. AOB

CBFs and CSO allied to the repowering and extension of Deucheran Hill by RWE was discussed.

Plus, the widely-reported recent poor performance of SSEN's much maligned flagship Viking windfarm on Shetland – which has recently achieved a load factor of only 17.5 due to operational setbacks.

DONM: Tues 13th May, 2025. 09.00 [virtual meeting: Zoom]