

# EKREG

## Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday 8th February, 2022

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

### 2. Minutes and actions outstanding at previous meeting (Tues 25<sup>th</sup> January)

- No matters outstanding

### 3. Treasurers' Report

- There were no transactions to report. An up-to-date bank statement, showing bank charges to which the account is now subject, was tabled and approved at the meeting.
- Prior to the meeting The Treasurer had kindly circulated a projected balance sheet which indicated sufficient funds were available to enable EKREG to bridge costs until administrative costs could be met from incoming BaT3 community benefit funds.

### 4. Correspondence with wind farm operators/developers

- A positive first-meeting had been held with Belltown Power, involving representatives from WKCC and CCC with regard their proposed 150-200MW windfarm development on FLS land West of Lussa Loch. It was agreed to reconvene 3Q22 to progress CBF and CSO discussions.

### 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. The revised agreement guarantees payment of community benefit funds akin to SG 2019 guidelines for the lifetime of the project whilst in their ownership (guaranteeing payments for an extra 15-years+; amounting to an extra £3.35m incoming for equal division to the three local communities impacted).

#### • **Community Investment Vehicle: Lussa Community Wind [LCW] Ltd**

Additional vendor documentation had been supplied to SPR to enable CW to be set-up on SPRs financial/accounting system

It was agreed that all reasonable endeavor should be given to the receipt and dissemination of the first CBF payment from SPR mid-March, enabling year-end reporting of the transaction (LCW accounting year-end is March 31<sup>st</sup>). The second payment is anticipated as received in May.

#### • **LES/CARES Grant/Tender documentation**

RL agreed to register the planned developments by Belltown Power (Lussa Loch) and ESB (West Torrisdale) with LES to facilitate a path to CARES grant support.

## 6. ESB – West Torrisdale

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) received from ESB had been redrafted to establish the key principles and reflect the communities desire to own upto 15% of the equity in the development rather than a revenue share. This proposal is to be tabled by the Project Manager at the next ESB Executive Board meeting, and a followup meeting with EKREG scheduled to discuss and develop a 'road map' to expedite this proposition assuming the proposal is acceptable to the ESB Board.

## 7. CC Charitable Bodies

- The online application and reporting forms for the first round of EKCF-disseminated funding were in the final stage of evolution

## 8. Communications & Marketing

### - Marketing

Routine updates had been made to the eastkintyre.org website, and the all-new Kintyre Wind website was at an advanced stage of construction with a view to launching April/May.

### - Engagement Strategy

A community petition entitled 'Share the Wind' (PE1885/C) promoting mandatory community shared ownership in Scottish windfarms via tax reform applicable to developers again received significant support when tabled for a second hearing by the Scottish Governments' Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022. The petition will be tabled for a third time at a date yet to be scheduled, when the appropriate Minister(s) will be invited to be questioned by the panel. The aim of the petition: to gain a fair and just financial outcome for communities impacted by renewable energy developments. The short discussion (@11.10) can be viewed live/archived @ <https://www.scottishparliament.tv/>.

### - Briefings/CC MoUs

A meeting had been scheduled with Chris Miles with a view to learning from that local communities' experiences of engaging with Muirhall at Crossdykes to prospectively attain a minority equity stake in that development.

## 9. Governance

No matters outstanding/to report.

## 10. AOB

No other matters were tabled at the meeting

**DONM:** Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 2022, 09.30 [virtual meeting: Zoom]