

EKREG Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday, 9th November, 2021

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

Venue: Remote working: conference via Zoom

1. Apologies for Absence

- None

2. Minutes and actions outstanding at previous meeting (Mon 25th October)

- No matters outstanding

3. Treasurers' Report

- No transactions to report. Management accounts were approved.

4. Correspondence with wind farm operators/developers

- South Knapdale CC had opted to meet with EDF re Airigh (Nr. Kilberry) windfarm to initiate the CSO/CBF dialogue with a view to potentially introducing EKREG downstream.
- Intelligent Land Investment (ILI) who plan to expand Carradale sub-station to accommodate 52 x 20' reefer containers to hold batteries held a public consultation event in relation to the significant, and highly impactful, expansion of Carradale sub-station at Carradale Village Hall Nov. 4th. ILI had flatly turned-down EKREG's approach, on behalf of the community, for structured annual Community Benefit Fund-style Payments as compensation for the new development. Questions were also raised at the consultation even as to why this development could not be housed, with less impact on local residents, at Crossaig sub-station.
- ESB have scheduled a public consultation event with regard their planned wind farm at West Torrisdale Dec. 10/11th at Carradale Village Hall. This development will be highly visible from Carradale point/golf club in particular.
- There were no updates to report in connection with early-stage CSO correspondence allied to the ongoing dialogue with EnergieKontor, Muirden and ESB over multiple developments. Dialogue with EKREG via EKCC indicated that EnergieKontor will not hold any face-to-face public consultations with regard their planned developments in the region.
- Support had been provided to WKCC for pre-cognitive submissions in advance of the scheduled hearing relating to SPRs much-objected-to development at Sheirdrim Hill

5. BaT3

- **SPR/Iberdrola**
Despite prompts, SPRs response to EKREG's response to their first draft of the legal agreement underpinning the payment of Community Benefit Funds remains outstanding. As a consequence a lawyer has been engaged with support from LES via

the existing CARES grant, to assist the dialogue with SPR and achieve an agreement that will be acceptable.

- **Community Investment Vehicle: Lussa Community Wind [LCW] Ltd**

- It was unanimously agreed that LCW Ltd. fulfilled SPR's requirements and provided the best vehicle available to EKREG through which the CBF payments incoming from BaT3 should be administered into the three community charities established for the purpose.
- Update letter to Lussa Pioneer shareholders agreed. JB to print along with share certification and circulate

No further updates to report

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

Approval had been received from LES that EKREG could repurpose the LES/CARES grant support awarded to engage legal support for CBF negotiations, rather than CSO.

6. CC Charitable Bodies

A MOWI representative had been seconded onto the EKCF committee that will review applications pertaining to the £20K endowment received from MOWI. For further information/applications from worthy beneficiaries see: www.eastkintyre.org

7. Communications & Marketing

- **Marketing**

Routine updates had been made to the eastkintyre.org website

- **Engagement Strategy**

A multi-community-led petition entitled 'Share the Wind' (PE1885/C) promoting community shared ownership in local windfarms had received significant support when tabled by the Scottish Governments' Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee on 6th October 2021. A date was awaited for the next hearing at which the petition would be retabled – where the support of our elected political representatives had been pledged – to gain a fair and just financial outcome for communities impacted by renewable energy developments. The discussion can be viewed live @ <https://www.scottishparliament.tv/>.

- **Briefings/CC MoUs**

JB had prompted Donald Cameron for his support for the petition and AB was awaiting a response from Brendan O'Hara and Paul Sweeney following his transmission of the latest version of EKREG's CSO briefing document which provided a land tax solution to ensure the offer of CSO is mandatory for all developers across Scotland and thus yield parity with similar arrangements in several Scandinavian countries [**Action: follow up as needed: AB/JB**].

Representations with regards to EnergieKontors' impactful windfarm development at Narachan, incorporating turbines of an unprecedented size (and thus developer-profitability) in the region (that will breach Argyll and Bute Councils Landscape Capacity Study maximum height of 150m and will require every mast to bare night-time aviation lighting and that will be visible from many parts of the region and affecting the Rhonadale/Deer Hill vista), need to be logged with the Energy Consents Unit (ECU) by email before 21st November - responses to be sent to: representations@gov.scot

9. **Governance**

A prompt for an annual tax return had been received from HMRC, and the company's accountant had been duly furnished with the required bank statements to make the filing on behalf of the company.

10. **AOB**

No other matters were tabled at the meeting

DONM: Tues 23rd November, 2021, 09.30 [virtual meeting: Zoom]