

East Kintyre Renewable Energy Group (EKREG)
Minutes of Meeting
Thursday 29 August 2019 - Rubha Darach

1. Alasdair welcomed everyone and thanked Rhona for hosting the meeting.
2. Attendance: Alasdair Bennett (Chair), Rhona Elder and Rob Lee
3. Apologies: Jerry Barnes
4. Minutes of Meeting 18 July: It was agreed that all main actions were complete and that the additional actions relative to fish farms a hydro construction could now be removed from the agenda. The former because it is now being explored by the Planning Group and the latter because it is not assessed as providing a high value opportunity.
5. Minutes of Meeting 1 August with CCT: Members agreed this was an EKREG meeting and that the minutes should be included with others sent to CCT for their records. The group reviewed their Terms of Reference, already ratified by CCT, and agreed it provided the necessary clarity of role to take their work forward.
6. Correspondence with Windfarm Operators/Developers: Rob was thanked for providing a very helpful schedule of correspondence which showed replies to most letters, although still outstanding are SSE in relation to Tangy and Eon in relation to Deucheran. The response from RES regarding Blary Hill showed a poor understanding by them of the new guidance on Community Shared Ownership (CSO). **ACTION** - Jerry to write to RES and enlighten them about our expectations.
7. Community Benefit Funds (CBF): Rob advised that we had written to Octopus Investments to express our concerns about how the CBF for Cour Windfarm was being managed and asking for a review of process. It was noted that we had not yet received a reply. Alasdair mentioned that from the recent AGM of Argyll & Bute Windfarm and Renewable Trust it was clear that both A&B councillors and officers were awakening to the fact that recent Scottish Government Guidance was changing the way CBF would be managed, and that communities were being empowered to engage directly with wind farm developers.
8. Community Shared Ownership(CSO): Rob has done much research into wind speeds, turbine performance and the output/efficiency of existing sites, which has produced some fascinating data. This has already influenced thoughts on potential opportunities for CSO. While BaT3 provides the earliest CSO

opportunity, we need to treat with caution any CSO offering from SPR as analysis of their current model suggests it performs poorly.

9. Beinn an Tuirc 3 (BaT3): Work should start on this development in September and the group have had some initial dialogue with SPR Community Liaison. However, we need to engage with the appropriate level within SPR where there is a good understanding of both CSO/CBF and decisions can be made. Jerry recently drafted a letter to Gillian Arnot at SPR and we await a reply. The group recognise the need to engage with both WKCC and SKDT/Campbeltown CC to gauge their interest in potential CSO, as SPR will only deal with one body representing all interested communities. Alasdair advised that he has written to both Eric Spence at SKDT and Campbeltown CC, and awaits their replies.
10. Narachan Windfarm: Jerry recently attended a briefing evening organised by the developers, Energie Kontor, in West Kintyre and sent a written report to members. This wind farm looks like it could have a major impact on central Kintyre. The group recognised the need to balance environmental impact against potential community benefit and separate the two issues, with all representations against wind farm developments being routed via EKCC. Jerry has organised for the developers to hold a briefing in Carradale Village on w/c 16 September between 4-7pm. **ACTION:** All to encourage attendance by local community at this briefing. **ACTION:** Alasdair to speak to Ian Brodie regarding briefing the EKCC meeting on 5 September on the work of the EKREG. **ACTION:** Alasdair to take photos of Cour Windfarm from above Carradale Harbour to show actual impact of development.
11. High Constellation: The group discussed some serious concerns around how the developers, Blue Energy, operate. Rob's research reveals they have built 6 wind farms (including Cour) in Scotland, all of which have been sold on to Octopus Investments. Objections to this development were routed via EKCC, but have so far failed to appear on the Scottish Government ECU website. It is known that other representations from both West and East Kintyre, all submitted about 4 weeks ago, have also not appeared. **ACTION:** Alasdair to raise again with Ian Brodie.
12. Sheirdrim: Alasdair attended a recent meeting in Whitehouse organised by the developers, SPR. While it may offer CSO potential, it is probably well outwith the area to receive CBF.
13. Developers & Turbine Comparisons: Rob updated the meeting on the considerable research he has done on the performance of the various developers in our area and the turbines they have used. This data will be very significant as options for CSO are considered.

14. Models for Shared Ownership: Rob informed the meeting of the three basic models for SO:- a Joint Venture, Revenue Shared Option or Split Ownership. Rob and Jerry have met with Local Energy Scotland (LES) who have provided initial guidance. It is recognised we need to work closely with LES if we are to deliver a successful SO scheme.
15. Argyll & Bute Windfarm & Renewables Trust AGM: Alasdair updated the meeting on the AGM he attended a few days ago in Tarbert. There was much more meaningful discussion than at the previous AGM and a clear realisation that the onshore wind farm CBF environment was changing, with local communities being empowered to start driving the agenda with developers. A&B officials in attendance agreed to make available copies of the original legal agreements between the Council and Power Companies that established the Trust.
16. EK Website: Rhona explained the importance of the website in improving the profile of various EK community groups, particularly in the eyes of potential SO partners and authorities. **ACTION**: Alasdair to send Rhona a few paragraphs as an introduction to the EKREG pages.
17. CCT Trustee Attendance at Next Meeting: Alan Milstead has requested to attend the next meeting and the date/venue will be passed to him.
18. AOCB: No matters were raised.
19. DONM: 7pm Thursday 12 September at Rubha Darach