

# East Kintyre Renewable Energy Group (EKREG) Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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

Venue: Rubha Darach, Argyll PA28 6QT

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## 1. Apologies for Absence

- None

## 2. Minutes and actions agreed at previous meeting (Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb)

JB reported that progress was being made with two matters outstanding/carried-over: The combining and relaunch of Mems and Articles (with sanity check by ET) and the draw-down of additional insurance quotes. With regard the latter, charity-oriented service providers had been explored and a shortlist constructed to approach, ranked in order of preference. It was agreed that additional quotes should be based on upto £1m Professional Indemnity Cover, as was the quote already received from MPR via MFL.

## 3. Correspondence with wind farm operators/developers

Correspondence received from RES aka Killean indicated the project was firmly 'on hold' with no immediate plans to reapply for consent or decision over a potential sale.

Travel instructions had been issued to Energie Kontor with regard March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting aka CSO in Narachan (if consented)

It was noted that no response had yet been received to latest correspondence dispatched to Good Energy aka Willow or to PI Renewables2 aka Eascairt.

- **Actions outcoming from discussions**
  - PIR Bee Green to be contacted in parallel about Eascairt [JB]
  - Octopus Energy to be chased [AB]
  - Meeting with EK aka Narachan 4<sup>th</sup> March [RL/JB]

## 4. CSO - Options

### a. Model Rules, Legal Vehicles & Interactions

RL provided an update on his correspondence with HMRC concerning the charitable status of the type of legal vehicle through which it is proposed the communities concerned would engage in CSOs. Response to latest communique awaited from HMRC.

RL also reported on correspondence with DTAS and CSS about their support, and potential sponsorship, of the model rules proposed for the CSO legal vehicle – which could constitute the basis for adoption by other multi-community partnerships seeking to emulate the Kintyre communities' ambitions to pursue CSO in renewable energy developments. Feedback from CSS anticipated shortly after their board meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. If approved by CSS then the documentation will require FCA scrutiny on a 30-day turnaround.

Feedback from FCA on submitted model rules expected to be received before Feb 27<sup>th</sup>.

## **b. Funding Streams**

RL reported an encouraging response had been received from Triodos (an ethical banking operation) with regard to loaning the sorts of sums the community will require to take up CSO in the targeted developments at interest rates on a par with those available via local councils borrowing from the PWLB. Dialogue to be pursued.

The main focus for discussion and evolution was the presentation RL had prepared for delivery by AB/JB to A&BC Executive on 13<sup>th</sup> March introducing EKREG, the communities' ambitions for CSO in targeted developments and gauging the appetite for the local council to service the community with loans on favorable terms (akin to those serviced by many English Councils via the PWLB) to meet the community's aspirations to generate income for the council in parallel with CSO generated funds to service Community Council local development plans.

- **Actions outcoming from discussions**  
Presentation March 13<sup>th</sup> to A&BC Executive [AB/JB]

## **c. LES/CARES grants**

RL reported on his correspondence with LES over CARES grant funding

## **5. BaT3 (SPR)**

The upcoming meeting with SPR, to which EK, WK and CC Community Councils had been invited to participate along with Arran CC, was discussed and a list of Qs/discussion points were to be formulated prior to the pre-meet with local CC representatives.

- **Actions outcoming from discussions**  
Premeet for involved CC representatives 16<sup>th</sup> March [AB/JB/RL]  
SPR meeting aka BaT3 aka CBF and CSO opportunities 18<sup>th</sup> March [AB/JB/RL]

## **6. Clachaig Glen (EON (now RWE))**

A date for a presentation to T&SCT had been established: 1<sup>st</sup> April in Tarbert.

## **7. Tangy IV (SSE)**

A signed MoU had been received from the Laggan CC which means that EKREG now represents the interests of the Laggan CC, in addition to those already represented (East & West Kintyre, Southend and Campbeltown CCs), at any/all relevant CSO discussions and negotiations.

A response to ABs latest dispatch to Morven @SSE aka Tangy IV development was awaited.

## **8. NDA Update**

Nothing to report

Communication awaiting news of developer's plans for Willow and Eascairt

## 9. Communications & Marketing

- Engagement Strategy

A meeting with Mike Russell, local MSP and Scottish Minister, is being arranged for his next surgery in Campbeltown

- Website update

It was noted that RE will be overseas and e-incommunicado for most of March, so web updates will likely need to wait until her return

- Briefings

Updates reported above under previous items

## 10. AOB

The renaming/rebranding of the company was discussed given recognition that the company's business portfolio had outgrown the existing 'East Kintyre' branding. After much debate it was agreed that the company's name did not merit change, at least for the time being and that the acronym EKREG Ltd. should be adopted wherever possible in preference to using the full formal name of the company.

## 11. DONM

**Agreed:** Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 10.00 Waterfoot