

EKREG Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 3rd June, 2020

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

Venue: Remote working: video conference via Zoom

1. Apologies for Absence

- None applicable

2. Minutes and actions agreed/outstanding at previous meeting (Wednesday, 20th May)

- No actions remain outstanding

3. Treasurers' Report

- Management accounts were reported and match with budget. The current financial balance was approved following receipt of £950 to reimburse the fee payment to FCA aka 'Model Rules' and the payment of Year 1 insurance fee.

4. Correspondence with wind farm operators/developers

- Nothing to report

5. CSO

- Model Rules - FCA Update

Following a bid to the Energy Savings Trust, a grant of £950 had been received to reimburse the fee paid to the FCA for their processing of 'Rob's Rules' to underpin the establishment of multi-community BenComm's. The FCA had notified EKREG that due to the present working climate they were extending their timeline for reviewing the documentation received by them from 30 to 40 working days.

- Funding Streams

No updates to report

- FLS/MCS Update

During further discussions with FLS over the communities' interest in submitting a Community Asset Transfer (CATS) application to lease a 300h block of FLS-owned land on the Cruach nan Gabhar ridge that sits between the existing Deucheran Hill (DH) and prospective development at Clachaig Glen (CG), EKREG had been disappointed to learn that FLS had admitted that the land the community had expressed formal interest in last year is already under lease to RWE as part of the DH wind farm lease, and this lease does not expire for another 5-6 years. During discussions over the communities interest in the land on the Cruach nan Gabhar ridge FLS released a map to EKREG of their proposed Energy Offering. This map, without any dialogue with the communities concerned, identified the whole of Carradale Forest as being offered for lease/sale by FLS and available for developers to cherry-pick their plots of choice. This information was immediately fed back to both East and West Kintyre CCs and Carradale Community Trust.

Actions:

- If needed, support and assist the communities in their response to FLS's placing of Carradale Forest (excluding the 3 already-leased blocks of land including and adjacent to DH windfarm) in the Energy Offering [EKREG]
- EKREG as formal sub-group of CCT to file, with support from EK and WK CCs, a formal registration of interest in the 3 currently-leased blocks of land including and adjacent to DH windfarm so that the communities are informed 6 months in advance of the expiry of the existing lease and can then decide as to whether they wish to pursue a CATS application for the transfer of these FLS assets to the community [RL/AB]
- Obtain a copy of the original RWE lease/planning permission history allied to DH windfarm [JB]

6. BaT3

- LES/CARES Grant/Tender documentation

Approved contractors to service both legal and financial advice tenders (nine for each) had been approached. No tenders within budget had been received to date, so responders were being asked to submit quotes for both the work that would be within budget and without budget. [Action: RL/JB]

- CC Charitable Bodies

No updates to report

- C-19 and other concerns

The community's understandable concerns over the recommencement of work on several local windfarm associated projects (incl. BaT3) remains and has resulted in the generation of a committee (meeting weekly) to review issues arising – this committee involves senior representation from EK and WK CCs, local councilors, SPR and A&BC. Some local concerns had also been voiced about the size and scale of the 'service road' build which appears to exceed expectation.

7. Clachaig Glen (RWE/Abundance)

- No updates to report.

8. Tangy IV

- AB had made contact with SSE to explore C-19 impacts on timelines, but no response yet received.

9. NDA Update

- A strong and positive dialogue had been maintained in the background

10. Communications & Marketing

- Marketing

No updates to report

- Engagement Strategy

A 'virtual' meeting to brief A&BC councillors on EKREG aims/activities is scheduled for June 11th [Action: AB/RL].

- Briefings/CC MoUs

Responses from S. Knapdale CC and Gigha CC are 'on hold' pending the release of 'lockdown'. No further correspondence with T&SDT.

- Website

Updates had been uploaded

11. AOB

- The agreed level of insurance cover was initiated 1st June.
- Clarification of position on promised 'outstanding' funding for Cour CBF payments was still awaited from Octopus Investments
- The anticipated application for a scoping study to underpin a 13-turbine windfarm at Erraghill (1.2 km SW of Tarbert and 1.2 km N of Skipness) had been filed

No other matters were tabled at this meeting

12. DONM

Wednesday June 17th, 10.00 via Zoom [JB to host]