

EKREG Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday 12th August 2020

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

Venue: Remote working: conference via Zoom

1. Apologies for Absence

- Apologies were received in advance from Rhona Elder

2. Minutes and actions agreed/outstanding at previous meeting (Wednesday, 29th July)

- No actions remain outstanding

3. Treasurers' Report

- Management accounts were approved. No interim transactions to report.

4. Correspondence with wind farm operators/developers

- No updates to report

5. CSO

- Model Rules - FCA Update

Following receipt of FCA-approval for 'Rob's' multi-community BennComm Rules' First drafts of guidance notes and associated documentation had been circulated to members of the group for feedback/evolution with a view to incorporation in final documentation. It was agreed that a fee of £325 was appropriate for the service provided for other communities wishing to make use of the EKREG rules.

Action: RL

- Funding Streams

A dialogue had been instigated between the A&BC executive and LES/CARES over their accessing Public Works and Loan Board(PWLB) funds to provide loans to support EK community buy-in to local renewable energy developments. Some concerns had been raised during this dialogue, but an alternative option was tabled for discussion with potentially the same positive outcome. It was agreed that EKREG should follow-up with A&BC executive. **Action: JB**

Formal acknowledgement had been received that RL's communication to Scottish Ministers over community access to funds to support their buy into renewable energy developments via access to PWLB funds and other government vehicles had been received and would be tabled. Response awaited.

- FLS/MCS Update

CCT/EKCC registration of formal interest to purchase elements of Carradale Forest was received and registered by the Scottish Government with a view to the development of the forest as envisioned in the local development plan.

6. BaT3

- LES/CARES Grant/Tender documentation

- No updates to report

- **CC Charitable Bodies**

- No updates to report

- **C-19 and other concerns**

- No updates to report

7. **Clachaig Glen (RWE/Abundance)**

- RWE had submitted their evolved plans for the development to the planning division at A&BC. No further updates to report

8. **Tangy IV**

- No updates to report

9. **NDA Update**

- Actions had been instigated, but no positive outcomes to report.

10. **Communications & Marketing**

- **Marketing**

A press release to highlight EKREG activity and the approval of the multi-community - BenComm Rules plus the benefits associated, and dissemination of the groups' FCA-approved BennComm Rules via the website could now be advanced. **Action: RE et al.**

- **Engagement Strategy**

An update on the Groups' activities had been released to the community via 'The Antler' which would be disseminated to householders in the region during August.

- **Briefings/CC MoUs**

Signed-off MoUs were expected, but still to be received, from SK and Gigha CCs. There had been no further correspondence with Tarbert & Skipness CC.
Action: AB (in due course)

- **Website**

News of the approval of the multi-community Rules had been released on the website.

11. **AOB**

- RL/JB had hosted a scheduled follow-up meeting with representatives of Kirknewton DT (KDT). During the course of the resulting discussions it had become clear that the PWLB-access opportunity via one of their contacts was unlikely to materialize. It was agreed that the parties would stay in contact and updates/advances shared

No other matters were tabled at this meeting

12. **DONM:** Wednesday August 26th, 10.00 via Zoom [JB to host]