

EKREG Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday 27th October 2020

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

Venue: Remote working: conference via Zoom

1. Apologies for Absence

- None applicable

2. Minutes and actions agreed/outstanding at previous meeting (Tuesday 13th October)

- 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

RL reported that the FCA expected to turnaround registration of the proposed multi-community benefit Society, using the approved model rules, within 15 days of submission. Key Ben Comm governance issues were agreed during the meeting. Given the relatively quick turnaround expected by the FCA it was agreed that registration of the Ben Comm could be placed on 'hold' pending receipt of the term sheet for Bat3 from SPR. In the background, plans for the Ben Comm, and share issue associated, would be advanced [**Action: RL**]

- Funding Streams

The outcomes of a conference call with Mark Brennan at LES were discussed. This dialogue focused on aspects associated with the EKREG grant-aided tender for financial and legal support in connection with Bat3 negotiations, and assistance for A&BC to explore onward loan opportunities via access to Public Works Loan Board funds to support community shared ownership in renewable energy developments.

Both LES and EKREG awaited overdue communication/direction from Paul Wheelhouse (The Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands) with regard availability of funding sufficient to enable communities across Scotland to be able to consider advancing shared ownership in renewable developments.

- FLS/MCS Update

It was agreed that RL should inform FLS that the community were not interested in tendering for the Energy Offer pertaining to Carradale Forest [**Action: RL**]

6. BaT3

- The ongoing focus remains the evolution of documentation received from SPR aimed at facilitating discussions between SPR, EKREG and the CCs involved, with a view to sight of HoTs 4Q20. Communication ongoing. Feedback currently awaited from SPR.

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

Discussions with LES have opened the way for EKREG to use non-retail approved advisors for the proposed Bat3-associated assistance tender, at the company's discretion.

- **CC Charitable Bodies**

Registration documentation for The East Kintyre Community Fund (the charity that is to be established to oversee the dissemination of funds incoming from windfarms to strategic development, education and regeneration projects as outlined in the East Kintyre Local Development Plan) had been submitted to OSCR. Given published turnaround times, it is anticipated that it will take around 100 days for OSCR to consider the documentation submitted. RL was thanked for all his endeavours in advancing the registration.

- **C-19 and other concerns**

- No updates to report

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

- No updates to report

8. **Tangy IV**

- No updates to report

9. **Communications & Marketing**

- **Marketing**

A short article aimed at promoting the launch of the groups' Multi-Community Benefit Society rules to communities across Scotland had been accepted by LES and was expected to be published in their November bulletin. Community Shares Scotland will now be approached to achieve similar publicity [**Action: JB**].

- **Engagement Strategy**

No updates to report.

- **Briefings/CC MoUs**

No updates to report.

- **Website**

Dropdown menus had been modified to facilitate access by external parties to the SOREP pages/downloads. No other updates outstanding

10. **Governance**

The company's updated Articles of Association had been printed and were pending dispatch to Companies House [**Action: JB**].

A request for payment of corporation tax had unexpectedly been received from HMRC despite the fact that the company's first accounts were not due for filing until end-March 2021. It was agreed that support/service/advice from the company's accountant should be actioned [**Action: JB**].

11. **AOB**

The proposed windfarm at Sheirdrim had been turned down by A&BC planning dept due to several concerns, not least the visual impact of the development. The developer (SPR) had elected to take the matter to a public enquiry – yet to be scheduled.

13. **DONM:** Tuesday 10th November, 09.00 via Zoom [AB to host]