

EKREG Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday 8th December 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 24th November)

- 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

Plans for the Ben Comm, and share issue associated, had been advanced.

- Funding Streams

It had been ascertained that investments made in shares etc associated with the planned Ben Comms would not be eligible for Social Investment Tax Relief unless central government changed the rules pertaining and extended the scheme significantly beyond the end of the present financial year (the scheme is due to terminate 31st March 2021).

JB had an online meeting booked with a senior manager at Ethex to discuss potential interest in utilizing their crowd-funding platform to raise capital via the issue of community shares and/or bonds. JB to report on his discussions at the next board meeting [**Action: JB**].

The lack of feedback from the Scottish Government regarding access to public works loan board finance was discussed and it was agreed that RL would contact Mike Russell to chase the Minister on behalf of EKREG [**Action: RL**].

- FLS/MCS Update

The community awaited overdue feedback from the Scottish Government with regard the 'Right to Buy' application that had been submitted by CCT.

Discussion focused on the positioning and planning consent for planned and operational windfarm developments across Kintyre. After the meeting RL quickly circulated maps he had been working on showing 'areas designated for protection' (in A&BC Special Framework Document) overlaid on the position of windfarms planned and operational. This exercise highlighted the fact that several existing and planned windfarms are either all or part encroaching on areas designated by A&BC as 'areas of special protection'. This poses a cause for some concern. AB agreed to contact the leader of A&BC about this situation, with the aim of qualifying the value

of this designation by A&BC and clarifying the parameters resulting in such 'protected' status and why the 'protective status' had been breached on numerous occasions across the region. In parallel, JB was tasked with pursuing a freedom of information request to clarify the land opened-up by FLS across Argyll to Energy Officers in the recently-closed 'expression of interest' aimed at developers [Action: AB/JB].

6. BaT3

- No feedback had yet been received from SPR with regard EKREG comment on their tabled NDA, but SPR did appear to be slowly progressing the evolution of documentation aimed at facilitating discussions between SPR, EKREG and the CCs involved, with sight of the HoTs still expected late-4Q20. Concerns were raised, under the circumstances, as to the level of information likely to be transmitted in the HoTs.
- **LES/CARES Grant/Tender documentation**
No updates to report - sight of HoTs from SPR required before tendering process can be reconsidered.
- **CC Charitable Bodies**
No updates to report

7. Communications & Marketing

- **Marketing**
No updates to report
- **Engagement Strategy**
No updates to report.
- **Briefings/CC MoUs**
Dialogue had been reignited with T&S Trust and a meeting date established to make a presentation in the early New Year.
- **Website**
Minor amendments had been made – no further updates outstanding

8. Governance

The company's Articles of Association had been reforwarded to Companies House following another requested minor amendment

9. AOB

- AB and RL reported they had participated in SPRs public information event for the planned development at Earraghail (between Tarbert and Skipness) via SPRs interactive portal and made comment on the proposals. The community is encouraged to do likewise while the portal is open: https://www.scottishpowerrenewables.com/pages/earraghail_renewable_energy_development.aspx.

10. **DONM:** Tuesday 22nd December, 09.30 via Zoom [AB to host]