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| **Loch Broom Community Renewables** | | | | | | | |
| Minutes meeting held 25 February 2021 19:30 - Zoom | | | | | | | |
| Present: Rob Gibson (Chair), Paul Copestake, Kathleen Donald, Sarah Donald (Di Rollo), Tim Gauntlett, Andy Kaye, Robert Mackenzie, Dave Maxwell, Sandy Osborne  Apologies: Seori Burnett, Alex Cochrane, Alison Parsons  Minutes: Edel Walsh | | | | | | | |
|  | | | | | | | |
| **No** | | **Details** | | **Action** | **Comment** | | |
| 1 | | Approval (and publication) of minutes of 27 January 2021: Prop AK/ SecRG | | | | | |
| **No** | | **Details** | | **Action** | **Comment** | | |
| **2** | | **Matters Arising from Previous Minutes** | | | | | |
| 2.1 | | Flow enhancements.  RG has been in touch with Nature Scotland. The SSSI follows a path to the south side of the burn, just above the hydro. Any plans can be discussed with NS. Important to note extensive list of prohibited actions (eg drainage, plant destruction). | | PGC | Ongoing | | |
| 2.2 | | Land purchase agreement: Valuers were in touch with S Underwood during the week seeking UCT and LBC’s mitigation claim to reduce valuation. AK contributed to this. | | RG | Ongoing. See Main Agenda Item 7.1 | | |
| 2.3 | | Hydro project with High School | | SD | Carry Forward | | |
| 2.4 | | Power Purchase Agreement: process starts in Feb, to approach Locogen to conduct on LCR behalf. Are there other options? Investigate and report back. | | AK and SO | Ongoing | | |
| 2.5 | | Vision Day Goals – LCR to progress STEM project with Ullapool High School via SB.  SB updated prior to meeting. School principal Robbie McFedries keen for this to happen.  The school has just appointed a DYW (developing young workforce) co-ordinator who starts work in the next couple of weeks. Robbie will put her in contact with SB; expected to happen in next weeks.  SB also contacted Sarah Morton who is leading the STEM project for UHI; she has added him to the steering group; it’s hoped there will be another meeting on that soon. | | SB | Ongoing | | |
| **No** | | **Details** | | **Action** |  | | |
| **3** | | **Treasurer’s Report** | | | | | |
| 3.1  3.2 | | AK has met with RM to progress role handover. Henceforth AK will copy RM on all matters regarding treasurer’s role with view to easing him into role by end financial year. Is in process of rearranging new authorised signatures. AK will continue to administer Triodos (shares) account and gain access for RM.  AK shared financial report prior to meeting. Noted rebate of initial £35k investment. No further remarks. | | AK  AK | | | Ongoing |
| **No** | | **Details** | | **Action** | | | **Comment** |
| **4** | | **Generation** | | | | | |
| 4.1 | | Performance report shared by Paul prior to meeting. Performance hasn’t achieved anticipated average but snow melt had some effect. Steady progress. | | PGC | | |  |
| **No** | **Details** | | **Action** | | | **Comment** | |
| **5** | **Operating Update** | | | | | | |
| 5.1  5.2 | SO reported on fault warning on flow to generator which he re-set and all seems fine. Won’t take further steps until problem re-occurs.  Gilkes have finally agreed to attend site 15 March to inspect runner and will also re-visit issue with speed probe. Which party will pay for visit to be resolved. | | SO  SO | | | Ongoing  15 March | |
| **No** | **Details** | | **Action** | | | **Comment** | |
| **6** | **Community Benefit Fund** | | | | | | |
| 6.1 | Still some work to be carried out on MoU. | | PGC | | | Ongoing | |
| **No** | **Details** | | **Action** | | | **Comment** | |
| **7** | **Lease Update / Hydro Land Purchase** | | | | | | |
| 7.1  7.2 | Signed lease lodged with the Registers of Scotland; Harper MacLeod and Joe Duncan have matters in hand.  RG made some enquiries with Community Land Scotland. They have never heard of problems such as LCR has encountered but are willing to look into matters on LCR’s behalf. If LCR would like to take out associate membership with CLS for a small annual fee, it would give access to a range of people who have been through the purchase experience. This in turn could help inform LCR’s decision to take proceedings further. No urgency with this.  **Hydro Land Purchase**  AK met with Bernard Planterose and they discussed proposed Areas 4a and 4b at Lael. BP will carry out further investigations. Key recommendations include consideration to be given to additional use beyond hydro eg forest croft development.  RG sought Community Assets’ (CA) views on LCR to seek to purchase the land on either side of the hydro corridor, ie 4a and 4B. John MacDonald, CA local rep “thought it would be fine for LCR to seek funding to purchase areas 4a and 4b while UCT considers other areas of the woodland”.  UCT will have to confirm it will withdraw any interest in 4a and 4b. UCT would be expected to pass to LCR any relevant research by consultants.  A Community Asset Transfer (CAT) could then be lodged with Forest & Land Scotland (FLS) thereafter this material used in application to Scottish Land Fund (SLF). LCR would then make a referral to SLF. That would be a “non-financial” Stage 1 application which can be done by phoning the SLF team at National Lottery.  The Stage 1 bid by LCR requires basic information on a) intentions for use of the land; b) what local needs the proposals are trying to meet and c) how LCR would manage the land in a financially sustainable way.  This should allow the proposal to be accepted in principle by SLF and trigger proceeding to Stage 2. Previous to Stage 2 application t SLF, LCR must have a CAT approved by FLS.  LCR could make a referral to SLF if all the above moves are completed even before SLF4 (the new round of land fund cash for CATs) is set in motion by the new government after May 2021. | | RG  AK/RG  RG/AK/SD | | | Ongoing  Ongoing | |
| **No** | **Details** | | **Action** | | | **Comment** | |
| **8** | **Ullapool Village Hall** | | **SO** | | |  | |
|  | TG has had communication from Ken Morrison via email. The committee is seeking help as it investigates replacing their OFCH heating system with ASHP/Solar. To indicate support, LCR offered a link person with whom there can be contact. SO will make contact. | |  | | |  | |
| **No** | **Details** | | **Action** | | | **Comment** | |
| **9** | **Mandatory Compliance (Grid Connection)** | | | | | | |
|  | Underway | | PGC | | |  | |
| **No** | **Details** | | **Action** | | | **Comment** | |
| **10** | **AOB** | |  | | | | |
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| **Date Next Meeting** | | | | | | | |
|  | Wednesday 24 March 2021 @7.30pm | |  | | |  | |