

Lochbroom Community Renewables Ltd

Minutes of meeting 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Present: Tim Gauntlett (Chair), Paul Copestake, Amanda Barry-Hirst, Kathleen Donald (minutes), Andy Kaye, Dave Maxwell, Sandy Osborne, Alison Parsons

AGENDA	Action
<p>1.Apologies: Rebekah Lwin, Rob Gibson, Sarah Donald</p> <p><u>2.Previous minutes</u> Approved by Dave and seconded by Amanda</p> <p><u>3.Matters Arising</u> Andy Kaye confirmed he would be able to continue as the interim treasurer. He is continuing to liaise with the accountants and will liaise with Cooperatives UK if necessary. There are continued problems with change of signatures with RBS.</p> <p><u>Charitable Status</u> Kathleen Donald reported that she had had confirmation from Cooperatives UK that they agreed we did not qualify for charitable status as we were seen as a business earning money from generating electricity. She had contacted another similar venture at Loch Sunart and the chairperson had confirmed that they also were a “Bencom.” without charitable status. So far, they had not paid any tax and money they were earning for the Community had been seen as a donation and was liable for Gift Aid which was a bonus for the community. They used a local accountant used to dealing with “Bencoms”.</p> <p><u>Retrospective Planning</u> To await Forestry Commission response and not to pursue unless they do so.</p> <p><u>Broadband</u> Andy still negotiating</p> <p><u>Change of Address</u> Andy recommended that the letter head template should include a contact for replies. It should also show registration details which is legally required by FCA. Will share address with UCT (The HUB New Broom) will receive mail and it will be collected from there. Arrangement to be made with PO by TG.</p> <p><u>UCT purchase of FES land</u> Tim reported that UCT purchase of FES land on hold for present. Support given by LCR to UCT when required. LCR hopes this will be progressed in the near future.</p> <p><u>Website and Facebook</u> - Alison has this in hand</p> <p><u>Broompower signs</u> - Decision to leave present canvas sign instead of one on gate.</p> <p><u>Info for Community</u> – Paul and Amanda on-going. Graph showing cumulative generation ( total kw hrs) to be displayed.</p> <p>4. <u>Treasurer's Report</u> - attached VAT return sent and VAT claimed back. Bank change necessary. Proposed Bank of Scotland which has an automated switch facility and 6 mths free banking, thereafter they charge per cheque. Andy investigated Triodos Bank for a deposit share account with interest savings which would isolate the interest and capital repayment from the on-going operational costs which would be with BoS. Dave and Andy will continue to process this. People would be invited to accept interest payments on</p>	<p></p> <p>AK and KD to continue to pursue the tax implications</p> <p>SO</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>A P will process Letter Head, T G . AK</p> <p>AB TG</p> <p>PC and AB</p> <p>DM and AK</p>

<p>line which would save on postage and cheques.  Change to accounting system 'zero' approved by accountants. Andy will close Quickbooks and cancel direct debit.  Thanks were expressed to Andy for all his hard work on sorting things out with the Accountants.  Further info received from Scott Moncrieff accountants after the meeting states that funds available in relation to the withdrawal of shares will need to be from profit surpluses, <i>after</i> tax and other debts are accounted for. But it is confirmed that payments to UCT will be pre-tax as will interest to share holders.</p>	
<p>5. <u>Budget update</u>  <u>Construction a/c.</u> Bobby Ross has been paid is the final bill, but there are possibly some incidentals still due. Campbell of Doune invoices – Sandy to send these to Dave who will put them on Dropbox. On-going charges for (operational costs) Braemore Hall and Good Energy direct debits.  FIT payments – we have full accreditation but the first reading is not due to be sent in till 20<sup>th</sup> March.</p>	
<p>6. <u>Construction Report</u> – snagging  There is still a problem with the flow and loss of power. Hugh Campbell has been up and checked the valves. Some deer grass had got through the grid and was causing an obstruction but Paul removed it. Flow still not up to full power, cause uncertain Sandy is hopeful to get a camera to check if there is anything wrong in the pipes. The fault may cause us to lose approx. £1200/year through the flow and loss of power.</p>	<p>Stuart Hamilton,  SO and PC  ongoing.</p>
<p>7. <u>Operating update</u>  Graphs sent by Paul – informative and appreciated. Graph to go on website and facebook to show total kw hours with picture.</p>	<p>PC and AB</p>
<p>8. <u>Publicity and Communications</u>  Alison has revised the website. The Comms team updated and will produce an information notice for the New Broom.</p>	<p>AP / Comms  team</p>
<p>9. <u>Loch a'Bhraion Update</u>  LCR should prepare a position statement about the direction it will take on the proposed scheme. Tim and Amanda will do this.</p>	<p>TG AB</p>
<p>10. AOB.  <u>Research Project.</u> Dave undertook to reply to the recent request to be part of research and will say that we are not in a position to take part.</p>	<p>DM</p>
<p><u>Future Broompower Plans.</u> Planning Day proposed by Diane Campbell still thought to be worthwhile. Tim will contact to ask if she still wishes to offer this.  UCT having visit from HIE to introduce new area manager. Visit 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. Tim will show him the Turbine House.</p>	<p>TG A B</p>
<p>LCR need to be aware that UCT losing financial support for Ben, from 91% to 50% and possibly all funding. Implications for LCR and Community Fund. And LCR to monitor</p>	<p>TG</p>
<p><u>Date of Next Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> March.</u> Tim will send out other dates alternate Tues and Weds.</p>	<p>T</p>