

Lochbroom Community Renewables Ltd

Minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2019 at Ullapool Sailing Club

Present: Alex Cochrane, Tim Gauntlett (Chair), Rob Gibson, Amanda Barry-Hirst, Rebekah Lwin (minutes).

Item	AGENDA item		Discussion	Actions	Owner
1	Apologies		Paul Copestake, Kathleen Donald, Sarah Donald, Andy Kaye, David Maxwell, Sandy Osborne, Alison Parsons, Ewan Young		
2	Approval of minutes of previous Board Meeting		The draft minutes of the previous meeting were approved Proposed: Rob Seconded: Alex	Upload pdf to Dropbox Post on website	RL AP
3	Matters arising from previous minutes		Actions from the previous minutes that were to be carried out by Paul (display of employers liability certificate and installing safety signs for the power house) are believed to have been completed.	Tim to check	TG/PC
4	Power Purchase agreement	RG	At last meeting it was agreed that Stuart, Rob and Sandy would check out competitors. Of the four companies approached, only Opus Energy and Good Energy responded. Our Power has ceased to operate and Peoples Energy did not respond. It was agreed to switch to Opus Energy immediately, thus ending the contract with Good Energy 2 months early, and continue with Opus for the coming year, which runs June to June. Rob will continue to investigate selling direct and will report back to the Board as information becomes available.		
5	Treasurer's report	AK	Andy was not present at the meeting but had sent an email of his report to the board. This provided a report of recent income and outgoings to the Board and these were accepted as read. Main matters raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> requests for payments of interest slowed with interest unclaimed for 173 shareholdings, the average payment unclaimed is £38. March 31st is the deadline for payments to be claimed and at that time Andy will arrange for any new claims to be paid and also pay any further sums donated to the CBF. Claims made after 31 March and will be added to the £20,100 currently held in the 'Shares Repayment Reserve Fund' with a view to enabling the opportunity for members to claim any interest not claimed to date. It was agreed at a previous meeting that a letter would be sent to members, when details of the 	In light of this year's experience, Andy will draft an amended approach to the next share interest payments to be presented at the next AGM	AK

			<p>next AGM are announced, that would explain that members who do not apply for interest payments within the deadline can still claim this but it is their responsibility to contact us.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andy expressed concern about Good Energy's very slow and latterly non-payment for the electricity they have purchased. This will be rectified by move to Opus Energy. 		
			Alex still waiting for bank signatory approval	Andy to chase	AK
6	Operating update	PC/ SO	Neither Paul nor Sandy were present but had emailed the Board prior to the meeting confirming that all snagging had been completed and signed-off, a defects certificate issued and an invoice is awaited from Bobby Ross.		
7	Land purchase sub-group update	TG	<p>Tim reported that UCT (through a sub-group chaired by Terry Rose) are moving ahead, albeit slowly, on the FCS land purchase and by the end of the month should have the basis of a business plan. Tim was able to attend the last sub-group meeting but neither Ewan nor Alex (BP members of the subgroup) were able to attend. Andy's document re BroomPower position has also been circulated to the UCT sub-group. A community consultation is intended but nothing has been planned as yet and we still have not been given a price nor a valuation of the land.</p> <p>Rob has spoken to John Watt, in charge of the Scottish Land Fund, who mentioned they were looking for people to help organisations take projects forward from the Business Plan stage to purchase and implementation as this is generally more complicated.</p> <p>At present UCT's planning and negotiations include the area of land on which the hydro-scheme scheme is located with the intention that UCT become LCR's landlords and we pay UCT for leasing the land. If that fails then we should progress to buying the hydro-scheme area section for LCR, using Andy's document as the basis for a formal business plan.</p>	<p>UCT is leading on this at the moment so actions only for Tim, Alex and Ewan to report back. Key urgency is to press UCT to progress the valuation not only of the whole area but also the smaller area that LCR would be interested in if a UCT purchase does not transpire</p>	TG, AC, EY
8	Loch a' Bhraoin subgroup update	TG	<p>Very little progress. UCT, LCR and the Community Council have been hoping to meet with Mark Lorrimer and High Wallace but there has been no contact from them as yet. Mark Lorrimer is in Ullapool next week so Tim hopeful that there will be a meeting between all parties then. They have to make the community an offer of a minimum of £20,000 a year because of their use of a CARES loan but there are also additional options relating to how much of the surplus will be paid to us on an annual basis which still have to be negotiated. UCT have applied for funding for the legal and financial expertise to assist with the legal agreement.</p>	Report back at next meeting	TG

9	Electric Vehicle Event	ABH	Amanda reminded all about the Electric Vehicle event she is organising for 23/3/2019. Nine separate groups have taken a table and there will be information about electric charging points across the Scotland and the opportunity to test drive an electric car and electric bicycle. There will also be a closed facilitated workshop event in the afternoon to explore and discuss community collaboration with respect to environmental impacts and networking between the various diverse community groups.		
10	Meeting with Local Energy Scotland	TG	Tim has emailed everyone regarding the Local Energy Scotland meeting to be held on 4/5/2019. The programme has been finalised, Neil (Gerrard), Sarah, Tim and Paul making presentations.		
11	AOB	TG	Community Benefit Fund panel were meeting at the same time as this LCR meeting, hence Dave and Sarah's absence, and a notice will be made in the Ullapool News regarding the total sum available for Community Benefit and alongside details of how to apply.	Dave will prepare the notice for UN	DM
		TG	LCR has been contacted by Welcome Ullapool regarding their Fire and Light bid and requesting us to email our BroomPower membership to support the bid. It was felt to be inappropriate use of our membership data to do this however, the Board agreed that the bid could be mentioned on the BP website and in the notification about the CBF fund application.	Dave will prepare the notification	DM
		RL	Rebekah will set up a new DropBox folder with a few key documents for new Board members to read by way of an introduction to LCR and BroomPower.	Rebekah to set up new Dropbox folder	RL
12	Date/time of next meetings	Thursday 18th April 2019 7.00 pm, Ceilidh Place Future meetings: Tuesday, 21st May Thursday, 20th June Tuesday, 16th July Thursday, 15th August Tuesday, 17th September			