

Minutes



STEERING GROUP MEETING 7.30pm 25th March 2010 – BALNAIN HALL, GLENURQUHART

Attendees: Anne MacDonald, Mary Brook, Peter MacDonald, Andrew Castell, Neil MacInnes & Erik Trefler, Roberta & Stuart Brownlea (sbworks)
Apologies: Edward Redmond.

Agenda topics

Minutes of Meeting 28th January 2010

Discussion: the minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed

Community Engagement - Workshops	sbworks
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Discussion: Stuart & Roberta reported on the series of meetings/workshops held in the two communities. Numbers turning out were disappointing – people seem to be suffering from ‘over consultation fatigue’ as so many projects now try to encourage people to attend such workshops. However, in terms of this type of public engagement we got a 2% response which is about as good as can be expected. Direct Marketing mail-shots only get 1% or less response. There was very good involvement in terms of the exercises and some valuable ideas and suggestions came out of the group sessions. Sbworks submitted a full written report detailing the demographics and population figures for the area and all the other research work undertaken together with a summary of the outcomes of the group sessions. They had no objection to our using a summary of this on our web-site. Interestingly, just over 50% of those attending the workshops were aware of this community windfarm project. After answering any questions sbworks then left the meeting

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
None		

Community Engagement - General	Anne MacDonald
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Discussion:

The need now was to begin much wider profile raising to ensure the whole community are aware of the project and understand the need to respond to the vote.

- 1) Anne has arranged a meet with GUHS – Mr Drenan has agreed to doing something about the project in science/geography – meeting arranged for 16th April
- 2) Balnain Primary have also shown interest and a meet with them is arranged for 30th April

- 3) The Public Meeting was fixed for 5th June at Balnain Hall – Mike Girvan & Richard Gault to attend
- 4) Community Newsletters, Ness-link & Church of Scotland Parish Magazine to be provided with articles
- 5) Press release for Inverness Courier when planning lodged and prior to vote
- 6) Check to see if Fort Augustus & Glen Moriston Community Company have done reapplication forms and Guidance notes for anything similar to what we are proposing.

Conclusions:		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
GUHS meeting 16 th April	Anne/CES	16/4
Balnain Primary	Mary/Neil/CES	30/4
Arrangements for Public Meeting	Anne/Peter	urgent
Newsletters, Ness-link and Church magazine	Mary/Erik	soon
Draft Press Release	Mary/Anne	soon

Voting Arrangements		Anne MacDonald
Discussion:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) It was decided that there should be a postal vote for a mandate to continue with the project, an information leaflet and voting forms to go out to all households by 29th May. Deadline for votes set for 12th June. 2) Notices for the Public Meeting to be distributed by mid May in good time for the 5th June Public Meeting. 3) AGM date set for 25th June 		
Conclusions:		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Draft voting info & source printers	Anne MacDonald/CES	soon
Draft notices for Public Meeting	Mary	soon

Correspondence		
Discussion: Ross & Cromarty Archaeological Services wrote offering their services		
CCLA – deposit funds for charities with 0.5% interest available		
CES contract arrived for signing		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
CES Contract to be signed and returned to them	Erik	soon

Matters Arising and Any Other Business

- 1) We need information on Charities and VAT implications – Anne felt we might try Mike Girvan’s accountants for this – Co-op may want all dealings to be with one accountant anyway. Erik spoke with Johnston & Carmichael who confirmed that Charities and VAT need careful handling and it is essential to get the VAT right at the outset. Andrew advised our VAT can be done as a joint arrangement it Soirbheas & Soirbheas Trading so only one return is necessary.
- 2) RSPB are still considering matters and have set date for meeting with Mike and his engineer – Mike would like some representation from us at this meeting.
- 3) Andrew indicated we should register under Data Protection Act when we hold personal data. We have not compiled a members list yet, but we will be doing so soon so registration will be required soon

Conclusions: N/A

Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Contact Mike’s accountants for VAT advice	Anne	Soon
Attend RSPB meeting 14 th March	Erik	14/3/10
Obtain Data Protection Registration	Erik	Before June

DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS: THURSDAY 29th APRIL & 27TH MAY 2010

Public Meeting 5th June AGM 25th June

Chairman:

Anne MacDonald

Clerk to the Board:

Erik Trelfer

Date:

A meeting was held on 14th March 2010 at 7.30 at the Steading Bar, Glen Urquhart present were Anne MacDonald, Mary Brook, Mike & Lindsay Girvan, Richard Gauld and Erik Trelfer. The meeting was to discuss the likely concerns that RSPB may have and anticipate the questions and information they may require so that we would have all the answers for them at the forthcoming meeting with RSPB. Dates for the Soirbheas public meeting were set making sure that Mike would be available for them

Signed: A MacDonald

E. Trelfer

Date:

A meeting was held on 15th March at 10.00 at RSPB Inverness office. Present were a dozen RSPB officials, two people from Galbraith’s (retained by RSPB to advise on the financial aspects of wayleaves etc), Mike & Lindsay Girvan, Richard Gauld and Erik Trelfer. There was also a live video link to RSPB at Edinburgh.

RSPB made it clear that this meeting was to assess general acceptability of the proposals and that they were not the final decision makers. They would have to refer to the Scottish Board and possibly it would go all the way to their National Council.

1) Primary concern was for the Black Grouse – they would need assurances that we would avoid any disturbance to them with regard to track building and construction. Richard Gauld was able to assure

them that there would be no additional traffic 1st March – May 31st. During February, June and July there would be no traffic before 09.00 or after 18.00 hrs. There would be approx 2 vans per day after 09.00. During the main site construction phase, approx 120 loads comprising 8-12 loads per day for 14 days and 2 vans per day. There would be a 1 month break whilst concrete set. When the turbines are delivered there would be 3 loads per turbine plus a crane (delivered in 5 lorry loads). Turbines would be delivered probably late Summer or early Autumn. Once the site was fully operational there would be 1 site visit per month. In the event of a major component failure we would need to liaise with RSPB – fortunately this rarely happens. The Road Preparation Team would consist of 6 people and a JCB

2) RSPB had concerns that the track-way might be the Base for the site. Health & Safety issues needed to be addressed regarding access. Mike advised the Bothy was the favoured site for the base – flat area where portocabins & toilets could be located. These were included within the 120 loads mentioned previously. RSPB had concerns that this would be too close to the Grouse. An alternative location was agreed a bit higher up on the site.

3) Cabling – ATV would run the length of the track excavating, laying cable and backfilling as it went. This needs to be done in one go and takes about 14 days. RSPB noted there were some lecks in the vicinity proposed for the cable route so need to avoid work during the March – May period. Agreed this work to be scheduled for mid July onwards – probably during August – September.

4) RSPB main concerns were all met and so they moved on to Health & Safety issues (the person on the video link from Edinburgh was the H & S advisor). They required the compound on site to be operated and managed to CDM and health & safety recommendations – Richard Gauld confirmed this would be the case and as part of the Project Management, H & S consultants would be used. The track work was not a major issue as a) there is very little traffic out on this track and b) the work would be mainly just surface dressing. If any visitors came along then work would just stop. No real need for traffic lights in these circumstances. A Traffic Management Plan would be submitted to RSPB.

5) Financial Settlement – The Galbraith consultants advised there were no hard and fast rules as to what constitutes a reasonable payment – it was for each party to agree. Various different approaches could be used such as payment per metre of cabling and something for the disturbance. Usually though settlement would be in the form of an up front one off payment plus an annual payment. The consultants would liaise with Mike Girvan further as to quantum.

The meeting seemed to go well and RSPB seemed happy with all the proposals and that we would do our utmost to respect their interests. The number of lorry movements and work involved in the project seemed to be less than they had anticipated. They seemed confident that we would be able to work together to ensure as little disruption to the grouse as possible and seemed impressed with the thought that had been put in to the project to minimise interference with the reserves operation..

Signed - E. Trelfer

Date: