

Minutes



STEERING GROUP MEETING

7.30pm 28th January 2010 – BALNAIN HALL, GLENURQUHART

Attendees:

Anne MacDonald, Mary Brook, Peter MacDonald, Bill McDermott, Mhairi Gordon, Jim McAuley, Andrew Castell & Erik Trelfer

Apologies: Dianne Fraser, Paul & Kate McKinley, Annette Sutherland, Neil MacInnes, Edward Redmond.

Agenda topics

Minutes of Meeting 26th November 2009

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

Web Site

Anne MacDonald

Discussion:

- 1) Jim McAuley indicated the web site needed more pictures - pictures of the project and pictures chronicling each stage. There is the potential on the web-site to have a picture gallery, we could include a Blog facility and a Project Time Line
- 2) The Board thanked Jim for his work on the web-site which had been very well received by all those who had viewed it. It gave a good professional image and does all the things we want it to do
- 3) Other suggested photos that could be included were the Nursery, Play Parks, The Cover

Action items:

Person responsible:

Deadline:

Contact Lindsay Girvan to see if we can use some of the digital photos he took of the site

Mary Brook

Soon

The Clerk to send summary of the minutes to Jim

Erik Trelfer

Soon

Funding

Discussion:

- 1) Anne MacDonald was thanked for all her hard work and her time expended on obtaining the funding and was congratulated on the very successful result so far.

Conclusions:		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
None		

Community Engagement		Anne MacDonald
Discussion:		
<p>1) Anne confirmed that she had sent out tender documents to 4 firms but only one had responded positively. The small size of the project and tight time-frame may have affected the willingness of some firms to quote. The firm that did respond positively are local – sbworks (Stuart & Roberta Brownlea of Whinhill Balnain IV63 6TJ www.sbworks.co.uk.)</p> <p>2) It was agreed we need to organise our campaign now to increase awareness - it was agreed we should accept any support and assistance that Steven Watson of Community Energy Scotland could give. He had indicated he would be pleased to support us in this.</p> <p>3) It was suggested we might try and get the local schools engaged and perhaps also get them to vote on the project. A newsletter was another possibility to help with awareness. We could also use existing local publications by submitting articles for inclusion in them</p> <p>4) The AGM needs to be held within 18 months of our incorporation (which was on 12/3/2009). It was felt June 2010 would be the most suitable time (May is likely to be the General Election month)</p> <p>5) Community Energy Scotland press release was approved with amendments.</p>		
Conclusions:		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Contact sbworks	Anne MacDonald	As soon as possible

Grid Connection		Anne MacDonald
Discussion:		
<p>1) Mike had advised that he withdrew his application for grid connection due to the initial costs and uncertainty about final costs. It may be that we have to wait for the Beauldy-Denny line to be approved. We are not the only ones affected by the grid connection problems and a test case is pending in the Central Belt regarding unreasonable charges. The Scottish Government are also getting involved. It might help if we were to all lobby MP's and Ed Milliband</p>		
Conclusions:		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
None		

Correspondence		Erik Trelfer
Discussion: Correspondence with OSCR is continuing for our application for charitable status		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
None	n/a	n/a

Matters Arising and Any Other Business		
1) We need information on Charities and VAT implications 2) RSPB are still considering matters and have not yet contacted Mike to rearrange a date for meeting 3) Computer memory sticks have been purchased and distributed to ensure we have info all backed up 4) It is important that we all log the time we spend on work we are doing for Soirbheas – just a personal log of dates, activity and length of time spent. This will be of use in funding negotiations later on. 5) It was agreed we should take out membership with CES. They are running a training event in Glasgow 9/10 th Feb which may be of interest if anyone can go. 6) Invoice received from solicitors for work on the Leases and Collaboration Agreement - £4140.00 – Treasurer to pay it.		
Conclusions: N/A		
Action items:	Person responsible:	Deadline:
Contact Douglas Graham for info on VAT/Charities	Erik	Soon
Look into VAT registration and website info	Andrew	Soon
Ask Jim McAuley to log his time in connection with web-site	Mary	Soon
Take out membership with CES	Anne	Soon
DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS: THURSDAY 11TH & 26TH MARCH, 29TH APRIL & 27TH MAY 2010		

A meeting took place on 4th February 2010 at 7.30 in the Loch Ness Inn Drumnadrochit. Present were Anne MacDonald, Mary Brook, Bill McDermott, Erik Trelfer and Stewart & Roberta Brownlea of sbworks. Sbworks outlined how they would approach the brief we had provided to try to reach all levels of the community – perhaps including schools/young people. They asked us to clarify our objectives which were stated as:

- a) To raise community awareness in the community wind turbine project
- b) Obtain a mandate from the community that they do want us to go forward with the project
- c) Obtain ideas as to what outcomes people would like to see – how the revenue might be spent in the community

SBworks will build a link onto our web-site and one on Ness-link. A copy of our logo to be provided to Sbworks. First public consultation would be at the forthcoming Strathglass-Glen Shinty game. Leaflets to be produced announcing the consultations – where, when and why. 1st Workshop could be at Balnain, then the others after a couple of weeks so we could review and build on the first one.

Signed – A MacDonald

E. Trelfer