

Minutes



PUBLIC MEETING

7.30pm 5th June 2010 – BALNAIN HALL, GLENURQUHART

Attendees:

Anne MacDonald, Mary Brook, Neil MacInnes, Edward Redmond, Peter MacDonald & Erik Trelfer. Laura Nicolson (Community Energy Scotland), Mike Girvan (Corrimony Energy Ltd), Mr & Mrs E Laughton (Adrishai Community Council as observers). Apologies: Andrew Castell,

The Public Meeting was attended by 30 people. The meeting opened with Mike Girvan providing information on the project including the Environmental, Bird and Mammal Surveys that had been carried out. He provided maps of the site via Lap-top computer projection showing locations of the turbines and pictures taken from various points around the area as requested by the Council, with the wind-turbines superimposed on them to show what would be seen of them at those points. In all, because this is not a sky-line development, the visual impact on the landscape will be surprisingly small. Questions were then invited and answers provided.

Anne MacDonald advised that the original brief of the Steering Group was to assess if a community owned turbine would be viable. On the basis of the present figures, the 5 turbine project appears to be viable in terms of the costs and likely Revenue to be generated. On this basis a single community owned turbine as part of that development would also be viable.

The Steering Group had established that the finance for the community turbine is available through a mix of grant and bank loan funding. It would not be the intention to ask all members of the community to directly contribute money. In view of the very large sum involved, small fund raising events would not make much of a difference either, though if anyone wanted to organise these it would be encouraged. Similarly if anyone wanted to make donations we would be happy to accept them. There could also be opportunities for local businesses to be sponsors of the project. The bulk of the finance would come from grants (20-30%) and the balance by bank loan. The Co-op Bank has been very supportive of the project and indicated provisionally they would back it (always subject to their assessment of viability based on the figures available when formal application is made to them).

A Company has been set up with Charitable Status to handle distribution to the community of the Revenue generated, and a trading company has been set up for the business side of things. An Option to Lease the site has been signed and a Collaboration Agreement with Corrimony Energy Ltd setting out the contractual aspects.

The next step is to obtain a strong mandate from the Community that they want us to proceed with this project. The stronger the response the more leverage we will have when it comes to obtaining grant funding (as funders will not be generous to a project that the community is not solidly behind). A postal ballot is taking place and Ballot papers have been sent out to all addresses on the Edited Electoral Roll. Unfortunately anyone who ticked the box on their Electoral Return Form indicating they did not want their address made available for mailing lists will not receive a voting form. They should contact us though so that a voting slip can be made available to them. The deadline for voting is 12th June.

Assuming the vote is a strong positive response, we will then need the community to take up Membership with Soirbheas (individuals and community groups can be members). At present we have only a small Board of Directors comprising just 4 people so we will also be seeking


nominations from the Membership for more Directors to be appointed. The first Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 25th June.

There appeared to be no dissenters and the general mood seemed to be that a community owned turbine would be of great benefit to the community.

Chairman:

Clerk to the Board:

Date:

Anne MacDonald

25.8.10

Anne MacDonald

Erik Trelfer