

# **THE GREAT GLEN ENERGY CO-OP**

Minutes of a meeting of Directors held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

Present :- Graham Strachan (Director) Chairman (GS)  
Ian Whyte (Director) (IW)  
Denise Paterson ( Director) (DP)  
Lorna Lumsden (Director) ( LL)

Apologies:- Garry Page  
Felix Paterson

## **INFORMATION VISIT**

The Directors met at the offices of Falck Renewables at Dochfour Business Centre at 5pm where they were updated by Operations Analyst, Rory Hutcheson on current performance monitoring. Rory advised that some technical teething problems with the turbines were all being ironed out and that there were no serious issues to record. Aware that performance was below expectations and budget, it was generally accepted that the teething problems were not affecting output but rather, an unusual lack of wind in recent months had reduced generation capacity.

## **BUSINESS MEETING**

Following the visit to Falck, the Directors then met at Wester Altourie, Blackfold at 6pm.

## **MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting held at Fort Augustus on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2010 were approved, having been proposed by IW and seconded by DP. It was noted that names of those directors who attended were not included in the minutes.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

It was noted that the new point of contact at Energy 4 All was Tammy Calvert who replaces Mark Jennison.

GS has been assured that regular output reports will be back on schedule from now henceforth.

LL to be administrative secretary.

**GS to undertake further research on establishing a charity** to allow the Co-op to assist small scale charitable undertakings locally. **The Directors agreed to reflect on the need to create such a body.**

**GS to clarify bank account signatories**, confirming that LL to replace DP.

The Directors felt it would be helpful to have copy bank statements. The deposit ac with the Co-operative Bank pays 0.3% interest.

### **NON-FINANCIAL WORK PROGRAMME**

1. It was noted that the Co-op has approx £7000 available to spend.
2. **Ken Knott to advise on identifying installer accreditation.**
3. Project support amounting to £1000 each for three local schools adjacent to Millenium wind farm to be offered. It was felt that projects should be environmentally motivated but that they should contain an element of renewable energy activity in order to qualify for the assistance. **GS to formulate draft offer for DP to submit to appropriate school personnel.**
4. The naming of individual wind turbines by local schoolchildren was noted.

### **WIND FARM PERFORMANCE**

The Directors noted that there were delays in receiving output performance tables. GS has been assured this is back on schedule. Output is below estimate largely due to lack of wind, this being seen as a seasonal, cyclical, long-term weather-related issue.

### **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS / 2011 AGM SCHEDULING**

**It was resolved to hold the next Board meeting in Invermoriston Village Hall at 7pm on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011 (DP to arrange or advise) with the following meeting scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> February 2011, location to be determined at October meeting.**

**AGM provisionally booked for 16<sup>th</sup> April 2011 in Inverness** subject to suitable venue being available. It was resolved that **LL enquire about the availability of a meeting room at the Thistle Hotel, Inverness and to book the room if one was available, whilst GS will advise HQ of this action.**

### **AOCB**

1. **Public comment.** GS had received an open letter by email from an unknown source complaining about the visual impact of the Millenium turbines. GS had acknowledged this email communication and the Directors had no further comment.

2. **Newsletter.** It was resolved to publish either an annual or a six monthly newsletter. **GS to provide a draft layout for the next meeting.** Probable contents to include :-

Some Committee personal information  
Photos of the wind farm  
Introduction of the 2 new directors  
Invitation for ideas for Outreach projects  
A mention of the website  
Update on turbine naming and plaques  
Opinions invited re creation of a charity  
Chairman's comment on questionnaire returns  
Date of next AGM  
Breakdown of wind speed and output performance

3. **AGM Speakers.** The directors felt Ewan Fraser, Asset Manager, should provide a brief overview of the current status quo and that an additional speaker – such as the site ecologist – should be invited to give a presentation of wider interest. **GS to contact Ewan with provisional date.**

4. **Expenses/ Board Costs.**

- Given that E4A member of staff no longer chairing and providing support services to the board, it was proposed by IW and seconded by DP, that ordinary directors should receive £500 p.a. and that the Chairman and Secretary should receive an additional £250p.a (i.e. £750 pa) to cover the additional work load involved. This had been mooted at the AGM. *(Note: Graham subsequently agreed to check with E4A if these proposals were in order or would need General Meeting approval (See note 11.7 of Appendix A Great Glen Rules)* Graham also to clarify who pays for AGM event costs (hall/refreshments).
- It was resolved to cap travel expenses at £50 per meeting with an additional subsistence allowance of £10.00 if meetings proved to be lengthy affairs. **GS to draw up draft overall strategy covering these points.**

5. Accounts received from Annette till May 2010. Quarterly accounts should now be back on track. These were considered and **GS to request some clarification of Profit & Loss Detail.**

6. **GS to request clarification of VAT status.**

The meeting closed at 8pm.