

# GREAT GLEN ENERGY CO-OP

Minutes of a Bard meeting held at the offices of Falck Renewables Ltd, Dochfour Business Centre, Inverness on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2011 at 5.45pm.

Present-	Graham Strachan (Chairman)	GS
	Felix Paterson	FP
	Kenneth Knott	KK
	Ian Whyte	IW
	Lorna Lumsden	LL

Apologies:- Garry Page

In attendance Euan Fraser, Falck Renewables

**1. WELCOME:**The Chairman (GS) opened the meeting, welcoming the directors and Euan Fraser of Falck Renewables. He thanked Euan for the use of Falck's offices and for their hospitality.

**2. FALCK UPDATE:**Euan Fraser provided a useful and most interesting update on current production with October having exceeded budget forecast. The directors all agreed that, although monthly reporting was a useful exercise, production should be viewed over a much longer term. Euan explained some of the background to recent grid curtailment issues and provided an insight into the complex and competitive nature of the current energy production market. Euan also reported that as a result of considerable effort by the wind farm OMS (Operations & Maintenance Services) Contractor Nordex UK in undertaking both preventative and reactive maintenance works, the wind farm was meeting its anticipated operational performance. Nordex UK recently undertook a joint turbine evacuation/rescue training exercise alongside an RAF helicopter crew and the Highlands and Islands Fire & Rescue Service. The turbine naming information is to be erected on a purpose built display panel at the Redburn Café, Invermoriston with the kind permission of owners, Gerry and Sue Worth. A second panel with general information about Millennium Wind Farm will be erected alongside the turbine naming information. It was noted that the wind farm had generated at least three full time jobs locally as well as administrative support jobs.

**3. MINUTES** The minutes of the board meeting held on 13th June 2011 were discussed and proposed as a true record by KK, seconded by FP. The minutes were signed by GS.

**4. MATTERS ARISING** It was noted that web usage was minimal with an average of three hits per day. It was resolved to endeavour to maintain the website in an up to date state but this was regarded as non urgent.

**5. AGM 2012** It was resolved to hold this meeting, subject to confirmation of venue availability, at the Kingsmills Hotel on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April at 6pm for 6.30 pm. LL to book venue. Tea and biscuits to be made available.

**6. ROTATION** Ian Whyte agreed to stand down but he is eligible for re-election and wished to stand again. As GS is also due to stand down, it was agreed that FP would chair the AGM. GS will also stand for re-election.

**7. CO-OPS and ENERGY FOR ALL (E4A).** GS had had a meeting with the other Highland Co-ops earlier in the day (a note of the meeting will be produced) and it emerged that individual co-ops were all at differing stages of development and had all established a working relationship with our service provider E4A. The meeting had been welcomed and a future meeting to cover training and development issues was likely once Co-ops had established what exactly they wanted from such a meeting. Graham felt there was a desire to generate a relatively common thread to development, management and administration in dealings with E4A, in short, a degree of consistency. Graham advised he was not able to offer much further support to getting another meeting arranged.

**8. COMMUNITY FUND** KK reported that his research into educational literature packages for schools, on renewable energy issues, had uncovered much useful information – some of it web based, rather than in book form. His approach to local schools had had a mixed response with some more keen than others. The directors felt that renewable technology would play a major part in future life in the area, providing not only energy, but careers and jobs as well as underlying economic benefits for the community. It was therefore an important element of the educational curriculum which the GGEC wished to support from the perspective of providing broad based renewable energy information perhaps not otherwise available in current school timetables. KK will collate a short list of appropriate material for approval by the directors for future purchase and dissemination to schools. GS to check with E4A that this proposal is in order.

It was resolved that the GGEC write to Julia King (of the Community Company) advising that funds are available to community members to assist with development of small environmental projects of benefit to the local community which the community company are unable to fund or where there is a shortfall. Lorna to draft letter.

**9. INSURANCE AND RISK CONTROL** It was resolved to remain alert to potential risk and to monitor, on an ongoing basis, the overall insurance / risk position but that, at present, there were no specific issues to consider.

## **10. AOCB**

1. KK notified his interest in the proposed Ridgewind Wind Farm Prospective Co-op, adjacent to Millennium. The directors thanked him for this but felt there was no conflicting issue at present.

2. It was noted from E4A's annual accounts that their profit had increased from £3400 last year to £15,000 this year. This was thought to be due to reduction in staff numbers and admin streamlining.
3. Considering the Profit & loss accounts for GGEC, it was noted that there was continual slow improvement in return on investment.
4. GS to enquire why production figures are slow to be disseminated us. It was considered useful to have production figures provided promptly along with Falck's "easy to follow" annotated data – as demonstrated during the meeting by Euan Fraser of Falck.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** The proposed date for the next meeting is now February 21<sup>st</sup> 2012 at Falck's offices (if available) or Lorna's house (if repaired) at 5pm. The date was changed to be nearer to the AGM to allow for pre AGM discussion, there being little likelihood of urgent issues arising for the originally scheduled January date.

The meeting closed at 7pm.