

THE GREAT GLEN ENERGY CO-OP

Minutes of a meeting of Directors held on
6th October 2010 at Invermoriston Millennium Hall

Present :- Graham Strachan (Director) Chairman (GS)
Ian Whyte (Director) (IW)
Denise Paterson (Director) (DP)
Felix Paterson (Director) (FP)
Kenneth Knott (Director) (KK)
Garry Page (Director) (GP)
Lorna Lumsden (Director) (LL)

Apologies:- None (all Directors were present)

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th July, which had been previously circulated, were signed by the Chairman having been accepted as a true record of the meeting, this being proposed by DP and seconded by IW. It was resolved to purchase a book into which all signed minutes are to be retained. E4A to receive a copy of the minutes. Minutes to be made available on the members' area of the website, with any commercially confidential information being omitted. **Action E4A**

2. MATTERS ARISING

- a) **Charitable Status.** Although it is permissible to set up such a charity, the Directors considered this may be a future option. There was no real need for such a body at present as charitable donations could be made directly from the Co-op.
- b) **Bank account signatories.** Current signatories are GS, LL,FP,AH(E4A)
- c) **Public comment.** GS had received another semi-anonymous email with further negative comment on the Millennium Windfarm. The directors noted that the windfarm development was not the responsibility of the Co-op who were a group representing investor members in an element of the windfarm, not the actual developers. It was resolved to support Chairman's comments to date and not to continue the dialogue at least until the emailer provided full identity. KK pointed out that there would be further wind farm development in the surrounding area but that this was not a matter for the Co-op.
- d) **Newsletter.** It was resolved to circulate, annually, one, two-sided, A4 newsletter with the annual mailings which would be distributed by E4A. Graham Strachan circulated draft copy -finalised draft would be circulated for comment in advance of mailout with AGM advance warning letters. **Action GS**

- e) **Expenses / board costs policy.** GS had prepared a policy statement providing an estimated annual budget for Director's fees, Director's expenses, Board /AGM /EGM meeting costs and Board project costs at £5250 for the year 2010. As stated in the policy-it should be reviewed at the last meeting of each calendar year. Any changes to policy (such as a supplement to Director office bearers' fees to cover an increased workload following the reduction in admin input from E4A) to be put to the membership at the AGM. In reviewing the policy the board agreed to propose to AGM an increase in office bearer's fees to £750 for year 2011, GS will draft a motion to AGM to agree this increase and introduce an ability for the board to approve an automatic budget variation within an agreed percentage to take account of inflation as well as this increase in office bearers' fees. **Action GS**

- f) **VAT registration.** It was noted that the Co-op was VAT registered under the umbrella of E4A.

- g) **Turbine naming.** It was noted that proposed signage mechanisms and methods were still under consideration with, so far, no final decision on appropriate materials to be used. KK agreed to undertake further research on signage for plaques and an overall interpretation board at the entrance to the windfarm, describing the involvement of local schools in the naming process. Graham Strachan circulated example of vinyl sign suggested by Falck. **Action KK**

3. WIND FARM PERFORMANCE

It was noted that production was not, generally, keeping pace with estimated output. There was discussion about how explanatory information on turbine downtime was disseminated and the Directors resolved to seek an improved reporting procedure with more detail than had hitherto been the case. Although wind levels had been low, downtime was due to turbine maintenance and electrical disconnection due to outages for maintenance and connection of additional turbines. The Directors (GS) are to seek detailed explanation from E4A on how downtime and loss of production is calculated (i.e whether due to turbine technical issues, electricity connection issues or weather) in order to be in a position to report, clearly, the underlying cause of reduced output to the membership. GS reminded the Directors that investors were guaranteed at 6.5% return on investment whatever the output, this being compared favourably with other investments in the current economic climate. The Directors to seek regular, monthly, explanatory reports on output for the Great Glen Energy Co-op alone, there being no reason for the GGEC to receive figures from E4A pertaining to other Co-ops. Noted that Annette at E4A had been asking for more information. **Action GS**

4. CO-OP NON-FINANCIAL WORK PROGRAMME

The Directors recommended approval for grants of £1000 each to :-

Kilchuimen primary School

Invergarry Primary School

These grants to allow schools to undertake and implement, together with other funders, educational projects with an environmental theme at each school location.

GS to write to each, with an accompanying cheque, requesting a report, with photographs, of each completed project. GS will clear cheque payment with E4A. The schools to note a credit for the Board, along with other funders' logos in any publicity material and DP will write an article about the projects for the newsletter.

Action GS/E4A/DP

It was resolved to seek out further school projects to support in the wider local area including Stratherrick, Drumnadrochit, Glenurquhart High School, Foyers and Abriachan Forest Trust Forest School. DP agreed to contact each establishment. GS thanked DP for all her work in promoting the Board as a small grant supporter to local school projects.

Action DP

5. AGM

The Kingsmills Hotel has been booked and paid for, for the AGM in April 2011. Ewan Fraser to be invited to speak to provide explanation of reasons behind output not matching estimated / anticipated production. It was felt that it would also be useful to have information on the proposed extensions to the windfarm outlined.

The AGM will take the usual format but GS advised he will not be able to attend as he will be out of the country. The decision on who will chair the AGM to be taken at the next Board meeting. LL suggested FP.

Action GS

6. NEXT BOARD MEETING

Scheduled for 8th February 2011 at 7pm at Invermoriston Millennium Hall.

7. AOCB

Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston Community Company had expressed an interest in acquiring shares in the Co-op. It was noted that, although any individual who was an electricity consumer could purchase shares, shares in the Co-op rarely became available and that there was a waiting list of applicants for any that might become available with existing members having priority. GS to clarify written policy on share allocation. It was therefore agreed that Fort Augustus Community Company could put their name on the list but that the likelihood of shares becoming available for them to purchase was remote.