



Energy Isles Shetland Wind Farm

Community Liaison Group (CLG) Meeting – 16 July 2024

Virtual Zoom meeting - 1830

Present:

Doug Wilson (DW) - Smithy House Associates
John Thouless (JT) – Statkraft
Tracey Leslie (TL) – Statkraft
Seumas Skinner (SS) - Statkraft
Laurence Odie (LO) – Yell Community Council
Fiona Stirling (FS) – Mid Yell Development Company
Annette Jamieson (AJ) – Yell Community Council
Gordon Thomson (GT) – Unst Partnership
Alice Mathewson (AM) – North Yell Development Council

Apologies:

Graham Hughson (GH) – Development Council

Welcome

DW opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance. DW then ran through the agenda and the meeting notes from the meeting in March.

Agenda

- 1. Present & Apologies**
- 2. Previous minutes notes**
- 4. Project update**
 - Energy Isles
 - Beaw Field
- 5. Community benefit fund**
- 6. Community ownership**
- 7. AOB**

A good discussion took place around all the agenda points with some notes/comments and action points listed below.

Notes

- JT updated the group on progress with Energy Isles and Beaw Field. Work is ongoing on both projects. The key driver for both schemes is the grid connection date. There has been a proposed change of route for the connection to Yell, going via Scatsta area, rather than direct, and this will delay our connection date, now expected to be no earlier than 2030. Construction can be expected to start around 2 years prior to the grid connection date. Work is ongoing with landowners and crofters. Met mast is operational and we are gathering data now. Statkraft will be attending the Yell Show in September. AJ asked if there would be a met mast in the south (Beaw Field) and how the construction would be phased. JT, we have enough data from previous surveys and the plan is for both projects to be built out back-to-back. LO, it was raised at the CC meeting about the Yell water supply at Gossa Water and proximity of turbine 12. AJ, there was a concern about the grid being over ground. JT, our connection is understood to be a single overhead line but this would be a decision for SSE.
- DW opened up the discussion on CBF. Contact has been made with Mark Brennan (CARES) and he is willing to come and meet with the group. FS, shared the Yell CC statement on the CBF and this was discussed by the group (see below) and this is to be shared with Unst and Fetlar CCs. The group is looking to set up a Yell wide meeting soon. GT commented that the bulk of the CBF should stay on Yell with some job creation and scope to support projects on Unst and Fetlar.
- JT updated the group on community ownership options including turbine ownership, shares in the company and savings options. We are happy to keep having the discussions on community ownership.
- AOB. FS, can we contact Foundation Scotland to see if they would be available to attend a meeting later in the year. DW, next meeting, 10 September, to keep to the schedule. AJ to advise if this clashes with the next ASCC meeting.

Action points

- JT to send information on the mitigation and protection to the Gossa water supply
- YCC to send CBF statement to UCC and FCC
- DW to contact Foundation Scotland to check availability to attend a meeting in October/November
- AJ to advise if there is a meeting clash for the September CLG

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday 17 September 2024 (moved forward 1 week due to meeting clash)

Meeting closed at 1915

Yell Community Council statement on the Community Benefit Fund

“As the island which will be most directly impacted by the Statkraft developments, Yell Community Council (YCC) has requested time for Yell wide consultation and discussion about the setting up of a community benefit fund, the priorities for such a fund and the practicalities of delivery. YCC’s role is to represent Yell’s best interests and we believe this approach will enable that. Consideration of the involvement of other affected areas such as Unst and Fetlar will be part of this consultation process.

YCC has requested a return to consideration of the shared ownership option and that the group originally involved in these discussions (which included Unst and Fetlar reps) is resurrected. We have discussed support from Local Energy Scotland to assist with this.

YCC values the role of the liaison group to receive updates on the Statkraft projects and this group will become increasingly important as developer activity ramps up.”