



## **Energy Isles Shetland Wind Farm**

### **Community Liaison Group (CLG) Meeting – 10 March 2025**

#### **Cullivoe Hall - 1800**

##### **Present:**

Doug Wilson (DW) - Smithy House Associates  
John Thouless (JT) – Statkraft  
Tracey Leslie (TL) – Statkraft  
Annette Jamieson (AJ) – Yell Community Council  
Laurence Odie (LO) – Yell Community Council  
Susan Williamson (SW) – Yell Community Council  
Derek Jamieson (DJ) – Unst Community Council  
Gordon Thomson (GT) – Unst Partnership

##### **Apologies:**

Fiona Stirling – Mid Yell Development Company  
Adam Doull – Unst Community Council  
Alice Mathewson – North Yell Development Council  
Chris Bolton – Felter Community Council  
Graham Hughson – Mid Yell Development Company

##### **Welcome**

DW opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance. DW then ran through the apologies and agenda. There were no alterations to the meeting notes from the meeting in December. DW noted that there had been a request to join the meeting from Alan Skinner. DW reminded the group that the meeting was for CLG members only but he was happy for LO to pass on his contact details.

##### **Agenda**

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

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

## Notes

- JT updated on progress on the grid first. JT we now have a contracted grid date of October 2032. There is lot of work involved, consenting and regulatory, this might take 4 or 5 years, then 2 to 3 years for construction. JT all working towards Clean Power 2030. JT confirmed possible timescales, start on site 2029/30 with an overlap on both projects during construction. Site investigation works (trail pits and bore holes) will probably take place in 2027/28 and 12 months of water quality monitoring is required before construction commences. SW why are there turbines in the Gossa Water catchment area? JT referenced note provided to Anette prior to the meeting specifically addressing Gossa Water concerns and that this had been considered at length previously. He explained that there are a range of constraints that need to be considered in the design of a wind farm including local water courses, gradients, peat depth, local ecology etc. The runoff into the Gossa Water is naturally occurring, it's about managing it through construction. JT there was no objection from SEPA or Scottish Water, some concerns were raised on the original larger development before the redesign and final proposed 18 turbine design. AJ it would be good to share the full response on the water supply with the group. JT it was provided on this basis and all the information is in the public domain.
- JT we are continuing to collect data from the met mast and still need to work through the land court process, this can take up to 12 months. JT we will also start to look at the access study and how best to get wind turbine components to Yell. AJ people would like to understand how this will work? JT if possible it would be good to have a local company do the study with their local knowledge and expertise. Study likely to be desktop based looking at suitable vessels, disturbance, noise, overnight deliveries, impact on linkspan, barge chartering etc. There was a general discussion about different delivery points, restrictions, weight limits etc. LO declared an interest in Beaw Field as a tenant shareholder and ask for this to be noted in the meeting notes.
- DW covered off the email questions from FS. AJ will there be two separate CBF for the two projects? JT although Energy Isles and Beaw Field are separate companies the funds could be administered together. JT offered to review old meeting minutes with Peel to check on previous discussions. AJ/DJ the area of benefit comes from the area of consultation. DW the EI area of benefit has always been the North Isles. There was a general discussion on the CBF and the area of benefit including distribution across Shetland, the discussions with Foundation Scotland, the Beaw Field area of benefit and the Yell Steering Group who are looking at the CBF. DJ would you look at a disturbance payment through construction? JT we will have a look at this alongside other possible enhancements/legacy from the project. GT the £5K payment has been in place since 2010, should this be increased? JT we cannot commit to this increase, we have committed to index linking from last year.
- JT talked through the current Community Ownership (CO) options, shares, split ownership and shared revenue and took questions on the options. CO is not something Statkraft has done before. SW what risks are involved with CO? JT you would have to get independent financial advice but generally we would look to structure any offer, if it was made, so the community is not directly exposed to some risks such as construction and decommissioning costs. SW if we invest are we conflicted? JT planning, CBF and CO are all separate and will be

treated as such. GT the community council would still be there to hold developers to account as they cannot be financially involved with CO.

- AJ referring back to the email from FS, would Statkraft attend a public/information meeting with Foundation Scotland, Local Energy Scotland and others to raise awareness of the projects and CBF? DW to avoid possible confrontation in a public meeting would a newsletter first with information on CBF, CO, project timescales be a starting point leading to a public meeting. AJ would Statkraft consider financial support to help to facilitate some of this. JT this is something we can look at, supporting early feasibility work etc. DW if we opted for a newsletter and meeting when do you think this will happen? AJ/LO both before the end of the year.

### **Action points**

- JT to confirm CBF month start date linked to CPI
- DW to share the water supply response with the group
- DW to contact Burravoe Development Group to join the CLG
- DW to confirm current CLG members
- JT/LO to check for previous Beaw Field meeting minutes regarding discussion on CBF
- JT to explore financial support for feasibility work on community ownership
- Group to consider newsletter option
- Group to feedback on MoU (draft was shared prior to the meeting)

### **Next Meeting**

The proposed dates for the remaining 2025 meetings are;

Tuesday 3 June 2025 – **move to Monday 9 June 2025**

Tuesday 2 September 2025

Tuesday 2 December 2025

If there are any clashes locally with the proposed 2025 dates, can you please let DW know and we can adjust the dates.

**Meeting closed at 1930**