



Statkraft

Energy Isles Shetland Wind Farm

Community Liaison Group (CLG) Meeting 27th November 2019

6.30pm, Cullivoe Hall, Yell

Minutes

1. Present & Apologies

DW opened the meeting at 6.30pm and welcomed all those in attendance, noting apologies.

Present:

Doug Wilson (DW) - Smithy House Associates Ltd

Derek Jamieson (DJ) – Energy Isles

Charlotte Healey (CH) – Statkraft

Sharon Powell (SP) – Energy Isles

Lisa Ward (LW) – Energy Isles

Laurence Odie (LO) – Yell Community Council

Robert Jamieson (RJ) - Yell Community Council

Annette Jamieson (AJ) - Yell Community Council

Hazel Spence (HS) – Unst Community Council

Graham Hughson (GH) – representative for the Development Councils and Community Groups

Apologies:

Fetlar Community Council

Gordon Thomson (GT) – Unst Community Council

CH announced that Energy Isles had now officially been acquired by Statkraft in September 2019. A discussion was held around the timing of the announcement in the news and the official press release.

There were some concerns expressed that less of the benefits generated by the scheme would now stay on the island. CH confirmed that the local consortium of companies were still very much involved in the project but it was always the case that to make the project happen it would they would have to bring in a partner with the finances to deliver the project.

2. Action Points from the last minutes

The minutes of the last meeting were previously approved by the group and had been circulated to key stakeholders and uploaded to the Energy Isles website.

LW had contacted the schools around the proposed visit which had been requested by the pupils at the last exhibition. A meeting had been held with the Mid Yell Junior High School and the project team to discuss opportunities for Statkraft to engage with the school and a date of 22 April had been agreed for visits.

An action was agreed to contact Baltasound Junior High to set up a similar visit if required.

LW to contact the school. Progress will be followed up and updated at the next meeting.

3. Project Update

Planning

The Planning application had been submitted to the Energy Consents Unit in May and feedback had now been received.

Scottish Natural Heritage response to the application said they believed the project would have significant adverse effects on the special qualities of the Shetland National Scenic Area.

CH confirmed that after discussions with Scottish Natural Heritage, the project team are addressing their concerns by looking at reducing the number of turbines to reduce the impact on the Shetland NSA, and it is likely that approximately six turbines will be removed. These discussions have also led the team to consider reducing the height of certain turbines on the site.

The group discussed the economic viability of the generation capacity and the cost of the grid connection to Kergord. A wider discussion was had on the impact of climate change and the plans to reduce the scheme.

Public Engagement

A public consultation “drop-in” session will be held on the 4th of February 2020 which will show the details of the final scheme. DW explained that this was another opportunity for people to comment.

A discussion was held around the best venue to display the planning documentation and although the documents were lengthy the NTS provided a good overview. It was noted that these should be read in parallel with the original applications. All documents were also available for reference on the EI website.

It was agreed that the foyer of the Cullivoe Hall was the most suitable venue for public access at all times.

Following the drop-in session, additional information would be submitted to the ECU for the planning application to be re-assessed. It is hoped that the application will be considered by the Shetland Islands Council in May or June, but it was noted that it could take up to 12-18 months for consent to be granted by the ECU. If this went to appeal there would be up to a year's delay.

Landowners

Meetings are being organised to better understand the crofting issues in more detail. There were several comments from around the table that this process may be complicated. CH acknowledged that it would not be an easy process and there would be challenges to overcome.

CFD

It was noted that the project was three to four years away from bidding for a CFD.

5. Community and Economic Benefits

CH updated the group on progress with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Statkraft had been doing a lot of work on this scheme and other schemes and will shortly be circulating a draft MOU to the CLG for comment and feedback. It was noted that this is a brief document confirming the intentions of Statkraft to deliver £5,000 per MW in line with the Scottish Governments guidelines.

It is hoped that the MOU will establish trust within the North Isles Residents and provide assurance that Statkraft are committed to the original intentions of the project to deliver a Community Benefit fund.

Statkraft presented a letter received from Shetland Community Benefit Ltd enquiring about the community benefit proposals for the scheme. Discussions centred around the premise that it was up to the CLG to decide how the fund is distributed, and the area of benefit that has always been discussed is within the North Isles. The SCBF were asking for it to be distributed through the whole of Shetland.

It was agreed that the CLG would take the letter and discuss within their Community Councils and a response would be agreed at the February CLG meeting.

Community AND Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES)

CARES representative Mark Brennan had met with Community Councils in February around community ownership and this had been a successful meeting.

The group were reminded that Community Benefit and Community ownership were completely separate, and this was not an area of expertise from EI. Therefore, CARES will hold meetings with the community and report back to the CLG. Another meeting had been planned but this had not yet happened as Mark Brennan had been off work.

GH noted that they were waiting for an offer from Statkraft about the Community Ownership which was on hold therefore they had not submitted their grant application to CARES.

An action was made for DW to find out more information on this and report back to GH.

6. AOB

Cullivoe Road upgrade

The proposed upgrading of the road towards Cullivoe was discussed following news that Councillors had given their backing to making the work a top priority. The decision was made at a meeting of the full Shetland Islands Council on Wednesday. The estimated total capital cost of the work is currently around £4.3 million.

Council staff had reported that the B9092 between Gutcher and the Cullivoe pier was “no longer considered fit for purpose due to the recent significant increase in the number of heavy

goods vehicles (HGVs) using the road". Roads staff have concluded that the only viable long-term solution is to build a new road on a new alignment, with enough width to suit the increasing use by HGVs.

OFGEM

The group discussed the recent decision on the HVDC link.

7. Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting date would be confirmed as soon as possible, it is expected to be week commencing 3rd February.

Meeting closed at 7.35pm