

# MINUTE 15 FEBRUARY 2024

## Minute of Main Meeting

**Kilbraur Windfarm Community Benefit Trust**

held online through “Zoom” software on Thursday, 15 February 2024 at 6.00pm

Meeting hosted by VGS/Treasurer of the Kilbraur Windfarm Community Benefit Trust

<b>PRESENT</b>	Iain Miller (Chair), Frank Roach (part), Alison Cameron, David Andrews, Becky Clay,
<b>OFFICERS</b>	Christine Ross (VGS/Treasurer), Linda Robichaud (Secretary)
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	Cllr Richard Gale
<b>OBSERVERS</b>	Cllr McGillivray, Erin Murchie

		<b>ACTION</b>
1.0	<p><b>WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</b>            The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies had been received from Cllr Gale and Erin Murchie.</p> <p>The Chair then spent time paying tribute to Mary Nicol, a former Trustee representing Golspie. Sadly, Mary had recently passed away. The Chair traced her life, from the early days of taking the Lifebuoys to her involvement with the Davy Duff tapes and Golspie Youth Action. Mary had also been on the Gordonbush Panel. She had fallen ill some time ago. She was a true stalwart of the village, having been Treasurer of the Golspie Community Council and running the 200 club. Her funeral had been well attended on what had been a cold and slushy day.</p> <p>A minute's silence was then held in respect of Mary.</p>	
2.0	<p><b>DECLARATION OF INTERESTS</b></p> <p>It was agreed that any declaration of interest should be made at the appropriate time during the meeting.</p>	
3.0	<p><b>MINUTES – 26 OCTOBER 2023</b></p> <p>Iain Miller asked for any comments concerning the minute.</p> <p>As no comments were forthcoming the minute was then approved as an accurate record having been proposed by Iain Miller and seconded by David Andrews.</p>	
3.1	<p><b>Matters arising</b></p> <p>An update was given by Erin. Go Golspie had set out a project relating to flood defences and had applied for funding. £10k had been awarded for the</p>	

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	group to explore the situation further. Erin was currently going through the paperwork so that they can be awarded the money. Erin had had a long conversation with Henrietta of Golspie Community Council.	
4.0	<b>GOVERNANCE</b>	
4.1	<b>Face to face meeting</b> It was decided that a date would be set by email.	
4.2	<b>Review of policies</b> The review of policies could take place at the same time as reviewing the Trust Deed. However, CR did highlight, regarding the grant application, that some groups want to use VAT as matched funding. This matter would have to be addressed.  IM also highlighted the Trust Deed and the geographic location from which a prospective Trustee must be based in relation to the Community Council area which they wish to represent.  It was decided that the review of the Trust Deed meeting would take place by Zoom to enable Erin to attend. Subject to availability it would take place by Zoom on Thursday 22 February 2024 at 6.00pm.	
	<b>At 18.15 Frank Roach joined the meeting</b>	
5.0	<b>TREASURER'S REPORT</b> The Treasurer reminded everyone that the end of the financial had been 31 January 2024 and that she would soon be going to the accountants Mackay & Co. The Treasurer gave a report. These are some of the highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Income from Renantis - £171,414.37 (increase of £9k)</li><li>• The Trust needs to spend more – we are sitting on £440k</li><li>• Nothing out of the ordinary with accounts</li></ul> CR stated in reply to a query by FR that the amount being awarded each year was diminishing – certainly since CR had become Treasurer. During lockdown – 2020 little or no money had been given out.  A discussion followed regarding lack of applications. The main points included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• IM – we could revisit opening up to £20k for a short period of time. Replace £10k with £20k.</li><li>• BC – had spoken to people and process too long</li><li>• EM had felt that other Trusts were suffering a decline in applications. Erin is going to approach the other Trusts and ask while declining</li><li>• BC suggested a local survey</li><li>• CR thought that applications relating to salaries and revenue came to Gordonbush</li><li>• IM does not adhere to just “get rid of money”.</li><li>• IM - funding of courses by word of mouth</li></ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FR – not many people are out of work/seeking work</li> <li>• EM – lack of population around Windfarm</li> <li>• Becky doing a Facebook page</li> <li>• DA said he would bring up the matter of applications next week at the Brora Community Council meeting – IM said he would also attend to give examples of prior funding</li> </ul> <p>Any historic funding?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IM to find out about Sutherland Sessions</li> <li>• J McG – the Sutherland Sports Council money will be used so money welcome</li> <li>• East Sutherland Schools Sports Association – CR can speak to them</li> </ul>	
6.0.	<b>APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WITH CLOSING DATE 24 NOVEMBER 2024</b>	
6.1	<p><b>Association of Northern Trails Scotland (ANTS)</b> <b>Application ref: 2023/24/013</b></p> <p>Following discussion it was decided unanimously that £10k be awarded subject to a proviso.</p>	
6.2	<p><b>Charlies Old Codgers Foundation</b> <b>Application ref: 2023/24/014</b></p> <p>Following discussion it was decided that the application be declined.</p>	
6.3	<p><b>Pittentrail Recreation Hall Committee</b> <b>Application ref: 2023/24/015</b></p> <p>Following discussion an award of £4,157 was made.</p>	
7.0	<b>HISTORICAL OUTSTANDING APPLICATIONS</b>	
7.1	<p><b>East Sutherland Swimming Club</b> <b>Application ref: 2022/23/009</b></p> <p>No further information had been received</p>	
8.0	<b>MICROGRANT FOR COMPOST/GOLSPIE-IN-BLOOM</b>	
	This had previously been decided by a majority.	
9.0	<b>BALBLAIR PATH</b>	
	IM provided an update on the project.	
10.0	<b>BaDag (Brora Development Trust)</b>	
	Following discussion it was decided to decline the application.	
11.0	<b>REPRESENTATION FROM BRORA</b>	

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	<p>It was reported that the Rogart Community Council (RCC) was nominating Rachel Allan. When it was minuted by the RCC the minute will be given to the Trust.</p> <p>CR is to get in touch with Rachel to go through the induction process.</p>	
12.0	<b>AOCB</b>	
12.1	<p><b>Highland Wildcat Ltd</b></p> <p>CR is currently helping Highland Wildcat but their lease is running out in a couple of years. CR had told Highland Wildcat to continue with their application. Highland Wildcat are to have a meeting with Sutherland Estates next week. CR pointed out that they have an underspend of around £1,300.</p>	
12.2	<p><b>Brora Community Council</b></p> <p>Erin had had an email from Russell Rekhy (RK). RK had requested that money be ring-fenced for Brora. This is not something that Renantis would want and the decision would have to go back to the Trustees. It would not be in the interests of the Trust to ring-fence.</p> <p>BC said that she was not aware of the situation. DA pointed out that this topic had been under discussion for a long time.</p> <p>DA said that he could ask Sandy Crawford to put the item on the agenda of Brora Community Council.</p> <p>It would not be the decision of Renantis as it would split communities. A Trust would have to be set up – a Trust like the one operated by Kilbraur Windfarm CBT.</p> <p>DA said that the matter was only at discussion stage. DA is to ask Sandy Crawford to put it on the agenda.</p> <p>In the past Rogart's request for the same had been declined. FR said that Rogart had the Gordonbush money ring-fenced, but there was a problem accessing the funds as still need to go through the panel.</p> <p>Kilbraur is more open than Gordonbush e.g. Kilbraur making minutes available on their website.</p> <p>CR said that Kilbraur was a charity with rules to follow.</p>	
12.3	<p><b>Email address</b></p> <p>IM reported that he now had the password for the Trust's email address. The password is to be known to the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary.</p>	
12.4	<p><b>Schedule of meetings</b></p> <p>The Secretary is to send the customary schedule of meetings for the year.</p>	
12.5	<p><b>Advertising of meetings.</b></p> <p>FR asked when the limit of £10k had been brought into operation. Trustee Steve Wonderley had suggested reducing the limit from £20k to £10k as available funds were being rapidly consumed.</p>	

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	<p>FR suggested that we move to £20k. It was decided that we move to £20k and that would be acknowledged in the next advert relating to our closing date in May 2024.</p> <p>IM requested that Becky put this information on our Facebook page.</p>	
	<p><b>AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</b></p>	
	<p>No items were forthcoming</p>	
	<p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 19.15</p>	