**Minutes of Meeting**

**Point and Sandwick Trust**

**7pm Thursday 16 June 2011 Aird Hall**

**Present: DJ MacSween, D MacBain, A Mackenzie, GK MacDonald, KD Macdonald, D MacRitchie, AJ Murray, DM Macdonald, K Morrison, C Buchanan, CA MacDonald.**

**Apologies: A McCormack, L Chaplin, S Connor, W MacFarlane, T Clark.**

1. **Minutes and Matter Arising.**

The Minutes were agreed and the matters arising to be taken under the appropriate agenda items.

2. **Stornoway Trust Lease and Beinn Ghrideag Update.**

A timeline of milestones to take the BG project to completion was distributed. CM reported that the geotech report had yet to be formally handed in but it is clear that the turbine locations will stay as shown in the current planning consent. The Stornoway Trust have been notified accordingly and asked to sign off the Section 75, and to provide us with the draft lease and begin the resumption process, all of which the Trust had been deferring till the geotech report was completed. Our lawyers, HBJ, have asked Duncan Burd of Anderson Macarthur in Skye (who is handling these matters for the Trust) to now move this process along as swiftly as possible as they have to be concluded before we get to financial close with the bank in September/October.

The Committee discussed the possibility of designing the sub-station to make it more attractive to visitors and also providing parking space for visitors. This would be more expensive to do and may require another planning application. It was agreed to defer any decision till after financial close is reached.

SgurrEnergy have sent out a pre-qualification notification for the civil engineering contract to Islepower, RJ Macleod and Morrisons. This allows them to register an early expression of interest if they wish. There had been an inquiry from Alex Murray contractors via Community Energy Scotland, so the notification document was being sent to them too. The document states that it is PST policy to award as much work to local sub-contractors as possible. A similar document to the Power Purchase Companies is being prepared.

3. **Sidhean Mor Planning Application.**

CM reported that the above planning application and environmental statement has been prepared by SgurrEnergy and is now publically available on the pointandsandwick.com website. The formal applicant is Sandwick Community Council on behalf of Melbost and Branahuie Grazings Committee. The scheme is for six turbines or

18MW in total. If planning consent is granted, the final say on how many turbines will be built will be for Melbost and Branahuie Grazings Committee to decide.

4. **Grazing Committees Update.**

AJ Murray and GK Macdonald reported that a meeting of the Upper Bayble Grazings shareholders had requested to join PST with official ex-officio representation on the PST Board. The request was agreed. K Morrison and C Buchanan reported that after a number of meetings to discuss the issue, a majority of East St and Lower Sandwick shareholders had also decided unanimously to join PST. K Morrison would sign the Director's forms as the ex-officio representative of the Grazings Committee on the PST Board.

The number of Grazings Committees entitled to representation on the PST Board is now five. At a previous Board meeting it had been decided that the arrangement between PST and the Grazings Committees should eventually be formalised in a Memorandum, and CM reported that HBJ will distribute a draft to the Grazings Committees for them to look at and suggest any changes.

5. **Finance Update.**

CM reported that the Council have approved the proposal to set up the Renewables Revolving Fund which was submitted by PST back in April. This is potentially an important development and one which the other community energy companies are grateful to us for having put forward. We will applying both to this Council fund and to the CARES LOAN Fund for finance for the work we need to do on our planning application between now and October. The current PST bank balance is just £3,000 so bridging finance is required to move forward to financial close on Beinn Ghrideag

We are also in the process of applying for Big Lottery funding for £750,000 and we will apply for a similar amount in grant and loan to Social Investment Scotland when it opens for applications.

6. **Membership Update.**

There was no update.

7. **Registration of Directors Update.**

K Morrison and W MacFarlane would fill in the necessary forms at the Mann Judd office in Stornoway.

8. **AOB.**

The Committee again discussed the need for an additional person to help CM in his Development Director role. It was agreed that the person would be employed by CM as a additional consultant rather than directly by PST. CM would propose a suitable candidate

for the role and their relevant terms and conditions would be agreed by Roddy Cunningham, in his capacity as Business Advisor.

D MacRitchie gave a background briefing on the proposed 5MW solar farm on the Stornoway Trust estate. DM distributed his calculations which showed that the project was unlikely to be financially viable, given the level of Feed In Tariff it was likely to qualify for.