

BREASCLETE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting: 10th April 2024 7.30 pm

Breasclete Community Centre

Present: Jacqueline Ferguson, Cllr Ranald Fraser, Fraser Macdonald, Angus A. Mackenzie, Angus Smith, Kenny-John MacLennan, Malcolm Mackay, Lorraine Ballantine (online)

In attendance: Donald. Mackinnon Neil Barker, Maggie Barker, Emma Rennie, A. W. Ritell(?), Calum Russell Clare Pusey, Martyn Thomas

Northland Power: Denise Horan, Eilidh Whiteford

Apologies: John Smith, Christina Murray, Cllr Misty Macdonald

Minutes of Previous Meeting: Approved – A. Smith, 2nd K. MacLennan

The Chairman welcomed Eilidh Whiteford and Denise Horan from Northland Power to the meeting and invited them to give their presentation on the proposed offshore windfarm on the west side of Lewis.

They began by explaining that they were there to introduce the project, take on board any feedback and answer any questions. It was stressed that they were not technical specialists, but would do their best to answer questions, reporting back if necessary. They had offered to meet with the Community Council because we had responded to their scoping report consultation. This would be the first of many community engagement meetings to come.

A slide presentation was then given, which has since been circulated and is available from the clerk.

It detailed information such as: project timeline, location, capacity, work to date, work to be done, community benefit, community engagement and consultation process. The representative stressed that there would be community benefit, but that this was voluntary and not mandatory. Phase 1 of the public consultations would begin in Autumn of this year, through to early 2025. At that point NL would be looking for as specific feedback as possible.

There were many questions and concerns raised from the floor, and these are summarised in Appendix 1.

The Chairman thanked both representatives for their presentation and looked forward to further communication with them. KMacLennan said that Breasclete Hall would be open to hosting future consultation events. The

clerk agreed to forward any further questions the attendees might have. It was suggested that the community Council might link up with others on the Westside for future consultation. Clerk will contact Carloway Community Council regarding this.

Matters Arising:

Defibrillator: K Maclennan will check with School office regarding replacement pads.

Ditching / Salt Bin: work completed.

Bus Shelter: Perspex not yet fixed.

Rock Face: work planned.

Crown Estate: CnES meeting in April to discuss.

Grass Cutting: Cllr Fraser will email when ward fund is available. Grant form from Bakkafrust had been forwarded to the Treasurer.

Calanais Visitor Centre: The coffee truck was now operational; shop, toilets and interpretation are still open at present. Potential temporary parking to be discussed at UTC meeting.

Waste Skips: New sign is now in place. Discussion on the cost of oil tank disposal. F Macdonald will report back on this.

Correspondence: Email forwarded from Cllr Fraser regarding CnEs benefit from wind farms. This had been circulated.

RWE Windfarm: Public consultation events had been held. L. Ballantine had attended both. Heastabhal proposal showed at least 9 turbines would be visible from Calanais 1. The clerk said that this had been mentioned in the community council response to their scoping report and that HES would be one of the consultees.

AOCB:

Pentland Road: the sign had been removed. Cllr Fraser said it had been stolen, and this was a common occurrence with signs on the Pentland Road.

Bakkafrust Fund: This was available to groups within the community. Any one interested should email the clerk for details.

Date of Next Meeting: 8th May 2024