

Cruach Mhor Windfarm Trust

Minute of a meeting of the Trust on
Wednesday 18th February in the Glendaruel Hall at 6.00pm

1. Sederunt

Michael Russell (MWR, Chair), Charles Dixon Spain (CDS), Ros McKenna (RM) (Trustees), Amy Groom (AG, Secretary), Amy Aitken (AA, Scottish Power Renewables), Cllr William Sinclair (WS)

Apologies subsequent to the meeting were received from James Hamilton (JH), Andrew MacVicar (AM)

2. Minute of the Meeting of 19th November 2025

The minute of the meeting in November was approved.

Matters arising from the Minute:

- a) Loans – the Trust had made a loan to each village hall for solar PV installations. AA was comfortable that such actions were provided for in the Trust Deed as the previous meeting had believed.
- b) Two more emails had been received from Jennifer Davie-Smart, plus an application. The emails dealt with a variety of issues many of which had been raised by her before. It was felt her correspondence, and the way in which it was copied to individual members, fell within the normal definition of vexatious correspondence.

The definition of vexatious correspondence was discussed, this being correspondence which was persistent and repetitive, harassing and aggressive, lacking meritorious purpose, having a scattergun

approach, posing a disproportionate burden to the organisation and generally unreasonable.

It was agreed that Jennifer Davie-Smart would be informed in writing that the Trustees considered her correspondence to be vexatious and that we would not reply to such correspondence. A single point of contact will be provided for her and she will be asked to stop emailing or sending copies of correspondence to all the Trustees. She will of course still be entitled to apply to the Trust for funding. It was further agreed to review this decision after a year.

3. Financial Statement to 31st January 2026

Circulated to Trustees with no questions raised. There are funds available with only three months before receipt of the next community benefit payment, which is expected to continue annually until 2029. There has been discussion with Belltown regarding payments in advance to cover any gap in funding, and we are putting money in reserve.

4. Funding Applications

a. River Ruel Improvement Association

£1,400 application to fund the work of the Water Bailiff. AA visited the river with Andrew Barker this afternoon. Money has also been granted separately for restoration work but weather has prevented spending this as yet. Application approved.

b. Friends of Colintrave Church

£1,500 towards legal costs for conveyancing of Colintrave Church, of which purchase by the community is in progress. The legal bill on completion has not been issued as yet. There were some questions around the final purpose of the purchase and its viability, but noted that it

does have significant local support. Possible that we might raise questions as to purpose/use on receipt of any future applications. Application approved.

c. Kilmodan Primary School

£3,000 towards school trip for P4-7 class to Denmark, application approved.

d. Local pupil at Dunoon Grammar School

£500 towards Dunoon Grammar School volunteering trip to Sri Lanka, application approved.

e. Kirsteen Black

£450 towards community meditation/breathwork/soundbath sessions at both village halls. Trustees queried individual/business use of items to be purchased, but approved the application on the condition that items were stored at either hall for community use during the sessions. Discussed that sessions had funding from Warm Spaces for the coming year and the small charge for participants was to cover running costs.

f. Jennifer Davie-Smart

£985 to fund pop-up cafe and spectator parking during the Argyll Rally. It was first noted that a similar pop-up cafe has been operated by others each year without any external funding and that one of the proposed charitable beneficiaries is in Sandbank Gaelic Unit at which there are no local pupils at present.

Furthermore, although this application is more detailed, the request for funds by Jennifer Davie-Smart had been turned down before but the event has still gone ahead.

Finally the cutting preparation of a field belonging to the applicant would have been expected to have been given as a benefit in kind by the owner and listed as match funding. BBQ equipment could also be borrowed locally and the initial outlay for food and drink should be accounted for in the cashflow of the event.

It was therefore agreed not to provide the requested funding but to send a comprehensive response detailing the reasons that the Trustees had for refusing the application.

g. Colintraive Village Hall

Email received regarding an application proposed by the Hall to contribute towards the installation of a generator, for which they have received part-funding from SSE. They are waiting on quotes to complete their application to us and asked whether we might consider their application before our next meeting, to which the Trustees agreed.

5. Report back from previous grants

The Secretary had received a number of reports from those in receipt of recent grant funding, although some are still awaited as the projects are not yet completed. The final grant funding to Colintraive Village Hall for the solar PV installation is still to be paid *[since completed shortly after the meeting]*.

6. Other correspondence

Email received from Equitable Energy Research CIC, seeking to discuss our position regarding re-powering. MR to reply that we are happy to discuss.

7. Re-powering Update

There will be a session at the Glendaruel Village Hall on Tuesday to discuss the matrix of options and communities views, after which the group is looking to report to the community in March, then hold a vote in April/May to agree a way forward.

Question to AA about decommissioning the site as the repowering of a site of this nature by a company other than the original lease holder is a novel situation. It is assumed that electricity generation will continue as long as possible. AA offered to find out what she could with a particular focus on remediation of the land following turbine removal, e.g. foundations of the towers and the substation.

8. AOCB

The question of assistance with driving lessons was raised and the standing policy of assisting young people learning to drive, as well as a standing policy of £1,000 grant to young people for further education or career development purposes was confirmed.

Trustees also considered the need to be proactive about encouraging applications. This could be achieved through conversations about the Trust with members of the community. It was agreed to set up a Facebook page for the CMWFT, and look at the Place Plan when completed to see if we could assist with any projects there. It was felt that if projects were to include and benefit young people from this area as well as some from outwith the area then they might be considered.

There was discussion around the structure, created almost 25 years ago, which had the CMWFT separate from the CGDT, which is unusual for many areas. CMWFT is a trust in its own right with three members elected from the community. This is something that would require further discussion as

a trust that runs its own projects and also provides funds for others can be a challenge for small communities.

AA agreed to send the Chair and Secretary details of the annual report that the Trust is required to complete.

9. DONM

- a. AGM at 6.00pm on Wednesday 20th May 2026 in the Colintrave Hall, followed by an ordinary meeting of the Trustees