

Cruach Mhor Windfarm Trust

Minute of the Annual General Meeting of the Trust,
held on Wednesday 20th May at 6pm in the Colintrave Village Hall.

1. Welcome

In attendance:

Michael Russell (MR) (Chair), Charles Dixon Spain (CDS), Ros McKenna (RM), James Hamilton (JH), Andrew MacVicar (AM) (Trustees), Amy Aitken (ScottishPower Renewables), Amy Groom (AG) (Secretary)

Five members of the public.

2. Apologies

Cllr William Sinclair (WS).

3. Minute from AGM 2025

Approval of the minute proposed RM and seconded CDS.

4. Chair's Report & Accounts

This year's annual benefit payment from ScottishPower Renewables is expected imminently and, with some funds remaining from last year's payment, the Trust welcomes and would like to encourage new applications.

With the proposed re-powering approaching in 2029 the Trust is putting funds aside to cover any gap in annual benefit payment whilst the windfarm is not generating. This stands at just over £20,000 in the 95 day notice bank account. A proportion of the 2026/27 benefit payment will be added to this account.

We received £46,143.97 annual benefit payment in 2025/26, an index linked amount from the originally agreed £25,000. Most windfarms have substantially greater community benefit, however very few are index linked which ours is. In the region of £47,000 is due this month for 2026/27.

In 2025/26 a temporary grant was made to the Colintrave Hall for installation of a solar PV system, which has now been completed and repaid. This was similar to the arrangement with the Glendaruel Hall in the previous year.

Grant funding was paid to a range of organisations, as well as career grant payments. No driving lesson grant applications were received although these continue to be available for future applicants.

The outstanding refund from the CGDT, agreed earlier in 2025/26, has been received. Administrative costs were low, including hall hire and secretarial costs.

A small amount of bank interest was received, from the 95 day notice bank account and the business reserve account. We could discuss and decide whether it is necessary to have the two reserve accounts plus the current account.

All being well following re-powering we may need to consider how to encourage funding applications that are 'transformational' for ColGlen to make best use of having increased funds available. These might be larger scale projects that look to make a difference to ColGlen as a whole, alongside more individual community projects.

Questions:

Which bank are we with?

RBS and hold a current account, business reserve account and a 95 day notice account. The reserve and notice accounts are interest earning, the reserve less so and this is not much used at the moment.

Is there a conflict in the idea of the CMWFT seeking 'transformational' projects and the suggestion of employing someone to develop these when we have the CGDT, despite feeling that having a paid role is necessary to achieve such projects?

It is not the organisation which is the primary focus, rather that the CMWFT is enthusiastic for objectives to be proactively set out and achieved, should we have larger scale funds available.

What if the proposed re-powering does not go ahead?

If there is no annual benefit payment, e.g. should planning permission be refused, then the CMWFT will not continue in operation as existing funds would eventually run out.

Would we continue until funds were spent, or handover remaining funds to another organisation?

Yes we feel it should continue until that time. We run under a Trust Deed between Argyll & Bute Council and ScottishPower Renewables, so it is not entirely the Trustees' decision and would have to be discussed again should the situation arise.

5. Report by Scottish Power Renewables

The 2026 annual benefit payment has been processed and should be received by CMWFT in the next few days, in the sum of £47,217.90. SPR and CMWFT will continue to work together until the planned decommissioning starts in 2029. From the timescale at another site it is estimated there could be at least two years without energy generation, between taking down and putting up wind turbines. However this

was a site which SPR were re-powering, so Cruach Mhor switching to operation by Belltown could be more complex and have a longer period without generation.

Will generation continue at full power until decommissioning?

Yes would expect so, lease and planning conditions permitting.

Are CMWFT paid in arrears or in advance?

On checking, the benefit payment is paid in advance, so 2028 would be the final payment. The payment expected in the next few days is for the period 1 June 2026 - 31 May 2027. There would then be two payments remaining.

6. Community Questions

Asked throughout the meeting.

7. Any Other Competent Business

None raised.

The AGM was followed immediately by an ordinary meeting of Trustees.