

Cross-Party Group on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

21st June 2022, 7pm

Minute

Present

MSPs

Paul McLennan MSP
Audrey Nichol MSP

Invited guests

Gillian Morrison (guest speaker)
Richard Dibley (guest speaker)
Rory Hutcheson (guest speaker)
Joanne Allday (guest speaker)
Oliver Wragg (guest speaker)

Non-MSP Group Members

Elaine Waterson
Ben Walker
Colin Pritchard
David Cowdrey
Grace Remmington
Pete Roche
Andrew Rylah
Colin Campbell
Euan Thompson
Gary Donlin
David ??
Kairvee Tyagi
Agnes Holmes
Anne Sruckmeier
Jamie Maxton

Apologies

Sarah Boyack MSP
Gillian Martin MSP
Liam McArthur MSP

Liam Kerr MSP
Jackie Dunbar MSP

Agenda item 1 - Introduction by chair

Paul McLennan welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Agenda item 2 - Approval of minutes from the last meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 15 March 2022, had been sent round to group members in advance and the secretariat received no requests for additions or corrections. The group agreed that these provided an accurate account of the meeting (proposed by Audrey Nichol MSP, seconded by Ben Walker).

Agenda item 3 – AGM – Election of office bearers and approval of annual return

The nominations for the positions of Convener (x2) and Deputy Convener (x2) were circulated to the membership on 16th June in advance of the meeting. No one else was nominated.

The nominations for the 2 secretary posts were also circulated in advance of the meeting. No one else was nominated.

- Paul McLennan MSP was moved for convener by Audrey Nichol MSP and seconded by Ben Walker.
- Brian Whittle MSP was moved for convener by Audrey Nichol MSP and seconded by Ben Walker.
- Jenni Minto MSP was moved for deputy convener by Paul McLennan MSP and seconded by David Cowdrey.
- Sarah Boyack MSP was moved for deputy convener by Paul McLennan MSP and seconded by David Cowdrey.
- Ben Walker of Scottish Renewables and Elaine Waterson of Energy Saving Trust were moved for the secretariat positions by Paul McLennan MSP and seconded by Audrey Nichol MSP.

The group's office bearers are therefore:

Conveners:

- Paul McLennan MSP
- Brian Whittle MSP

Deputy Conveners:

- Jenni Minto MSP
- Sarah Boyack MSP

The group's secretaries are therefore:

- Ben Walker, Scottish Renewables - Secretary (Renewable Energy) and Treasurer
- Elaine Waterson, Energy Saving Trust – Secretary (Energy Efficiency)

Elaine Waterson noted that the Annual Return had been circulated to the group on 16th June and that it sets out the group's activities over the previous year and the financial benefits received by the group from Energy Saving Trust and Scottish Renewables. No suggestions or corrections to the annual return were suggested. The group approved the Annual Return (proposed by Paul McLennan, seconded by Audrey Nichol).

Agenda item 4 – Presentation from Gillian Morrison, Development Manager – Supply Chain, Crown Estate Scotland

Crown Estate Scotland has recently concluded the successful launch of ScotWind – the first Scottish offshore wind leasing round in over a decade and the first ever since the management of offshore wind rights were devolved to Scotland. Gillian began her presentation by noting that out of 74 applications there had been 17 projects selected (just under 25GW of capacity). Gillian went on to talk about the supply chain development process, noting that developers had taken this very seriously. In a world first, Crown Estate Scotland mandated that applicants must outline supply chain commitments as part of their application for an option agreement, with commitments then updated throughout development as project specifics such as timing and technology become clearer.

Agenda item 5 – Presentation from Richard Dibley, Managing Director, Falck Renewables

Richard Dibley began by highlighting that Flack (in partnership with others) had applied for 5 leases and won 3. Richard went on to note that Falck's presence in the UK includes onshore wind projects (413MW), that they are very focussed on communities and community ownership, and that they are backed by a US investment fund. Richard then noted that Orsted (who Falck have won bids with) develop and build more offshore wind projects than anyone else in the world. Richard then ran through the 3 successful projects which are off the coast of Aberdeen, Fraserburgh and Caithness respectively. Richard emphasised that Falck work in collaboration with the industry Offshore Wind Community Fund to ensure offshore wind brings real benefits to Scotland's communities – both locally and nationally. Richard went on to note that ports play a vital role and that due to the size of the structures involved there is a need for port facilities that fulfil a certain set of criteria. Richard concluded by outlining a set

of policy recommendations around supply chain support, consenting, grid connection facilitation and port infrastructure development.

Agenda item 6 – Presentation from Joanne Allday, Strategic Business Manager, Port of Cromarty Firth

Joanne began by providing some key information about the Port of Cromarty Firth - it is one of the deepest in the UK and very sheltered making it an ideal location for the storage and maintenance of oil rigs and now for offshore wind – indeed it is one of the leading locations in Europe. It is also one of the most experienced ports in Europe. Joanne went on to emphasise that ports need to cluster in order to be able to accommodate these projects because of the size and scale of the components. Joanne then said that Scotland has the opportunity to be a world leader in floating wind technology – it would have 1st mover advantage and skills/experience that could be exported to other countries. In terms of local content Joanne noted that the offshore wind sector deal targeted 60% local content. She went on to note that floating wind could deliver 20GW by the mid 2030s, a total of £40 billion, and 25,000 jobs and that it will also result in lower energy bills in the long term. Joanne concluded by discussing additional support required from government (including a decision of green free ports).

Agenda item 7 – Presentation from Oliver Wragg, Commercial Director, Orbital Marine

Oliver began by highlighting that tidal stream energy could produce enough electricity to meet 12-15% of UK electricity demand and noting that generation is out of phase with wind energy. Oliver went on to talk about Orbital Marine's technology that is installed in Orkney at the European Marine Energy Centre which generates sufficient electricity to power 2,000 homes. Oliver emphasised that their technology has 80% UK content and that they are striving for 90% UK content. Oliver concluded his presentation by highlighting that there is a real need to build and nurture home grown industry and supply chains noting that a bigger project portfolio is required in Scotland to drive further investment.

Agenda item 8 – Q & A and discussion

A range of questions were directed at the panel and included:

- Paul McLennan asked if there was enough collaboration and what needed to be done to encourage this. Gillian noted that we're not starting from scratch on this and highlighted the role of SOWEC (the Scottish Offshore Wind Energy Council). Joanne emphasised the commitment she has seen from everyone involved and the importance of having a capacity led strategy. Oliver noted the importance industry and government working closely together to ensure that technology was not looked at in silos. Richard suggested that collaboration in terms of community engagement would benefit from more attention and also noted that commercial sensitives can get in the way of collaboration.

- Paul McLennan asked what needs to be done by the UK Government and the Scottish Government in relation to grid connection and also asked if a grid capacity report exists. Joanne noted that National Grid would say that this is what they are doing with the HND process. Richard said that there was scope for more joined up thinking in this space.

Agenda item 9 – Next Meeting

Paul McLennan MSP noted that the next meeting of the group is likely to be in October. The secretariat will be in touch with members once a date has been confirmed.

Agenda item 10 - AOB

Paul McLennan thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and noted that he has been working on a Parliamentary Reception with Scottish Renewables. He advised attendees to get in touch with Ben if they would be interested in attending.