



## Speyside Area Forum

[www.undiscoveredspeyside.org](http://www.undiscoveredspeyside.org)

**Chairman: Mr Bill Burgess**

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### **Minute of Special Meeting held on 30th September, 2015 in Mortlach Memorial Hall in the matter of Dorenell Windfarm**

**Present** : Bill Burgess (Chairman), Hugh Fraser (Treasurer), Jean Oliver, Tricia Lawson, Eleanor Candy, Buntly Campbell, Andrea Fuller, John Shewan, Fiona Toovey, Rob Lewin, Patti Nelson, Sandy Henderson

**Apologies** : NIL

**In Attendance** : Cllr Fiona Murdoch, Cllr Mike McConachie, Gillian Bailey (Community Support Officer, The Moray Council), Fiona Milligan (Infinergy Ltd), Iain Catto (Foundation Scotland), Jamie Wilkinson (Local Energy Scotland)

The Chairman welcomed all those present and thanked them for attendance, Each attendee introduced themselves.

Fiona Milligan started her presentation by stating the Communities who would benefit from Dorenell Community Fund viz Cabrach, Dufftown, Glenrinnnes and Glenlivet / Glenavon.

At present there is a Consented Scheme with approval for 59 turbines with Planning for 60 due to commission in 2018. However, a redesigned Scheme has been submitted to the Scottish Parliament for bigger turbines plus one additional. Open days are planned to show the redesigned Scheme at Drummuir and Dufftown.

The Consented Scheme will release an annual Community Benefit Fund of £354,000 whereas if the redesigned Scheme is approved the annual Fund will be approx. £1,000,000. Mr Fraser expressed concerns at the possible longterm capacity of the Forum to manage this and was advised that the purpose of this Meeting was to find agreement to appoint an Agent to manage the Fund. *(At the Meeting on 8th September the understanding was given that the Forum was being asked to manage the Fund).*

The Chairman expressed his opinion that an organised body should be appointed to manage the Fund.

Infinergy stated the the Forum could apply for a grant of £10,000 which would be used to appoint a Consultant who could then assess how the four Communities move forward. This money would cover the costs of advertising /interviewing etc and it was indicated that further sums may be made available by Infinergy if necessary.

Jamie Wilkinson gave an account of the role of Local Energy Scotland and was looking at Speyside Area Forum to source and appoint a Consultant – at least three bids would have to come forward to select a suitable independant Consultant.

It was suggested that the Forum set up a sub Committee made up of the Chair of the Forum and one representative from each of the four Communities to take this Project forward.

Fiona Milligan undertook to send details of the requirements for appointing a Consultant.

Andrea Fuller made the point that a number of legal issues have to be investigated in the first instance regarding the appointment of the Consultant and the ongoing liabilities once the Fund monies come on stream.

John Shewan questioned the purpose for this Meeting as he understood that the four Communities had already agreed to set up a Trust.

After some further discussion it was agreed that this matter would be put to the vote at the Forum's AGM in November.

There being no further business the Meeting closed.