

Community Energy Cumbria
6th Annual General Meeting
28th September 2021, 6pm.
Online via Zoom and teleconference (due to Covid 19).

Minutes of the AGM 2020

Present:

Board Members: Phil Davies (Chair), Caroline Turner (Company Secretary), Peter Davies, Donna Munro.

Members: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (Part).

Apologies:

J Meeks, [REDACTED]

1. Minutes of 2020 AGM and Matters Arising

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted as correct. There were no matters arising. Approved by M Carter and P Davies.

2. Review of 2020/21 and update for 2021 so far

The Chair welcomed members to the AGM and gave a review of activity. There has been a 5% increase in the hydro capacity despite 20/21 year being reasonably dry which affected lots of upland hydros but not our reservoir scheme. The weather has been good for solar, but the issues with the optimisers, meant that 6 modules weren't operating and this led to a reduction in output. There is only a small loss of income due to most of the income coming via the hydro. The Solar PV system has now been fixed and monies set aside for potential future repairs. Overall, income was up £4000 on 2019/20.

Peter Davies outlined the steps being taken to look at our Price Purchase Agreement for the sale of energy from the hydro, which we hope to renew with a better price in March, hopefully up by a third. Slides were shown of relative kWh production per annum.

3. Presentation & Adoption of the Accounts

Phil Davies presented the accounts and noted that after making a 3% payment to members and £4630 in community benefit payments our end of year profit was £6787. [REDACTED] asked about the sundry income received. C Turner explained that this was a one-off payment from Electricity Northwest {Editor's note – the sundry income also included payment from insurers for loss of income due to solar issues in 19/20}.

M Carter asked about shareholder repayments in the accounts. These are shown on page 10 of the accounts. The Directors recommended a 3% interest payment to shareholders for the year 20/21, a return of £15,000 capital and to set aside or distribute £2870 for community benefit.

The accounts were proposed as correct by [REDACTED] and seconded by [REDACTED]. All voted in favour.

[REDACTED] asked about removal of capital and whether this would minimise the number of shareholders potentially benefiting from the scheme. P Davies explained that each member had an equal proportion of capital removed, so unless a member withdrew all their funds, the number of members would remain the same.

4. Election of Board

Caroline Turner, Phil Davies, Jane Meeks, Peter Davies, Donna Munro, Richard Scott all stepped down as Directors as per the constitution.

All put themselves up for re-election except Peter Davies who had resigned. The Board thanked Peter for his work over the last two years. There were no other applications received by the Board.

[REDACTED] proposed that the remaining Directors be accepted on block. This was seconded by [REDACTED]. ALL voted in favour.

Member [REDACTED] joined the meeting

5. Motions to AGM

i) **Application of Profits –**

A previous motion had been passed at AGM Nov 2018 about the community benefit fund. This was that a fund would be set up that:

I) delivers in a geographical radius of 20miles from Killington

II) supports projects that are linked to energy saving /generation

III) supports Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS) to deliver energy projects

Peter Davies proposed that these criteria were kept. ██████████ seconded and all Approved.

There was a discussion about whether to distribute the £2870 of community benefit this year or roll it over to another year.

██████████ proposed that the funds were rolled over, ██████████ seconded. This was approved by a majority vote.

ii) Application of Section 84(1) – ██████████ informed members that auditing is optional for CEC, but the company has disappplied these rules as set out on AGM agenda and proposed that this was continued for the following year. ██████████ proposed, ██████████ seconded. ALL voted in favour.

iii) Member motions

There were no motions received prior to the AGM.

iv) Appointment of Auditor/Independent Examiner

Phil D explained that the Board recommendation was to continue with Robinson Udale as Independent Examiners. This was proposed by Peter D, seconded by ██████████. ALL voted in favour.

A further call for new Board members was made.

--- **CLOSE OF AGM BUSINESS** ---

Update on projects funded by the community benefit fund.

D Munro gave an update on Manna House to who CEC provided funding toward an energy audit of their building. They have done some updates to their building fabric and lighting and are now trying to secure funding for a solar PV system.

A representative from Staveley CIC attended and provided an update on their project to restore an existing hydro turbine scheme in the village. CEC paid towards the feasibility study costs for the scheme.

Energy Local

D Munro gave a presentation on Energy Local clubs. Presently they are looking into setting one up in the Duddon Valley. The club would allow residents to purchase power from a local hydro scheme (via a third party energy company). Energy rates would change dependent on if the hydro was running, so residents could pay less for their energy when the hydro is running well. They are looking for other projects in the area.