

**Community Energy Cumbria**  
8th Annual General Meeting  
**26<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 6pm.**  
Online via Zoom and teleconference

**Minutes of the AGM 2023**

**Present:**

Board Members: Phil Davies (Chair), Caroline Turner (Company Secretary), Donna Munro, Richard Scott

Members: N B [REDACTED], J S [REDACTED], H A [REDACTED], Pe [REDACTED] D [REDACTED]s

**Apologies:** G H [REDACTED], J Meeks (Treasurer).

**1. Minutes of 2022 AGM and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the last AGM were accepted as correct. There were no matters arising.

Proposed by: PD. Approved by: DM

**2. Review of 2022/23 and update for 2023 so far**

**Please see slides for further details on generation figures.**

Board member Donna gave an update on the performance of the solar array. This is running well and was over expected generation of 25,000kWh per annum in 22/23 and output looking good for 2023.

PD explained that when the panels were initially installed, CEC had budgeted for 1% decrease in production per annum, but the panels do not seem to have lost output yet.

At the last AGM we heard about potential for deployment of further panels on the roof of the National Park Authority. Since then, the LDNP decided to procure their own and were applying for funding to do this. No further progress as yet.

The Chair gave an update on the hydro scheme. There's been a further small drop in output since last year. 20/21 generation was poor due to works on the lake by the Canals & Rivers Trust. And 22/23 has been lower due to reduced rainfall and reduced ability to draw water off from the reservoir due to lower levels. Another issue is the furring up of the pipe to the turbine, causing friction and turbulence and reducing flow. At present we have been advised to keep an eye on this as it would be a costly intervention to clean the pipe. Fortunately, our price purchase agreement renewal in March 22 has meant we were paid more for the energy, so our income rose to c.£50k for both schemes in 22/23 from c.£35k in 21/22. In other words, the loss of production has not resulted in a loss of income.

Due to the higher levels of income, the board has agreed a 5% interest payment this year and propose that £2,500 be directed into the community benefit funding pot. The Board also wishes to return £30,000 pounds of capital to shareholders. As this sum has been already requested in advance by a number of Members, there is no need to pay back capital on a proportionate basis to ALL Members.

**3. Presentation & Adoption of the Accounts**

The Chair presented the accounts. He noted that there was an error on pg11 with the column date reading 2012 instead of 2022. Looking at the balance sheet on pg. 11, income has increased from £35,279 in 21/22 to £50,157 in 2022/2023. There has been a slight increase in costs, but the organisation has moved into profit this year for the first time. He noted that the contract with CAFS for administration has not increased in the last few years and expressed thanks to CAFS. He reiterated that the accounts demonstrated that we can make a 5% return to shareholders and set aside £2,500 for community benefit fund.

The accounts were proposed by: PD; seconded by: DM and ALL voted in favour.

**4. Election of Board**

The Board all stepped down as Directors as per the constitution.

There were no new Director applications received by the Board. All current Directors put themselves up for re-election.

PD proposed that the Directors be accepted on block. This was seconded by JS. ALL voted in favour.

DM gave advance notice that she was intending to resign next year, and a request for new board members was made.

## **5. Motions to AGM**

### **i) Application of Profits –**

CT outlined that the board proposed £2500 for the community benefit fund. As there was no current request for CEC community funds, it was proposed that the £2,500 be set aside for funding projects next year.

PD proposed, JS seconded. The motion was approved.

**ii) To continue with application of Section 84(1) –** Phil Davies reminded members that whilst our accounts are drawn up by Robinson and Udale (accountants) and then checked by the Directors, CEC does not then send these accounts off to be further audited. Auditing is optional for CEC (and very expensive), so traditionally the company has used its Rules to disapply the need for further auditing (Section 84 (1)). It was proposed that this was continued for the following year. CT proposed, NB seconded. The motion was approved.

### **iii) Member motions**

There were no motions received prior to the AGM.

### **iv) Appointment of Auditor/Independent Examiner**

The Chair explained that the Board recommendation was to continue with Robinson Udale as Independent Examiners.

This was proposed by PD, seconded by CT. The motion was approved.

## **6. Update on Community Benefit Funded projects**

CT gave an update on the projects funded to date.

Staveley Community Energy hydro project has undertaken a feasibility report and this was positive with respect to the potential costs versus the energy generation based on prices at the time. Further quotes and studies are needed for the next stage (£3,380 awarded 2021).

Manna House has completed its energy audit and started to implement its recommendations. A thermal survey is still to be done (£1,250 awarded 2021).

New project - £3,000 awarded 2023 - Sedbergh Parish Council EV chargepoints – the initial civils are in place and waiting on electricity connections.

New project - £2,370 awarded 2023– CAfS Customer Relationship Management software implementation -helping to improve communications with supporters - they are drafting their spec after demos from several providers.

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

The AGM was followed by a short presentation by John Forbes, Programme Manager from Cumbria Action for Sustainability about the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership and the goal of net zero by 2037 in Cumbria. We heard about the workings of the partnership, and how it supports community energy and sustainability projects in the County amongst other things.