



Minutes of the Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy 2022 AGM held at Devizes Corn exchange at 2pm on 27th Sept 2022

At 2pm, the meeting was adjourned as there were only 13 members present, and quorate requires 3% of members in attendance per our rules, calculated as 16 people.

The meeting was formally adjourned for 30 mins in accordance with the rules and the Directors began marketing presentations. By 2.05pm an additional 3 members had turned up and the meeting was thereafter quorate.

1 Welcome & Intro (Julian Barlow)

The Chair, Julian Barlow opened the meeting by welcoming everybody to the meeting. The purpose of WWCE as 'less carbon, more wildlife' was reiterated. The group aims to explore diverse and ecological ways for clean energy to prevail.

Julian also highlighted that we were succeeding in raising awareness of the Community Fund and very much wanted to use our collective voice to harness and create change.

Julian then introduced the WWCE asset managers, Communities for Renewables (CFR), Tom Cosgrove and Charlie Forrester

2 Intro to CFR (Tom Cosgrove)

Tom outlined the role of CFR and what they do in terms of optimizing operations for the group. He spoke about the long term projections for the solar farms and how we use the P50 to benchmark against. In the year to 31 March 22, the group were 4.5% ahead of these projections in terms of energy generation.

Tom highlighted the replacement of the inverters (converting DC to AC current) at Chelworth and how we had seen an improvement at this plant since the new inverters were in place. Inverter failures are overall quite low now.

The rooftop sites have been cleaned, but were 7% down on projection for the year. Some of this was from shading, but as a group, we didn't agree to cutting down a tree, so are leaving this in situ.

3 Ecological Plan (Rob Gillies)

Rob talked about the challenges for WWCE which hadn't chosen an easy path for our solar farms, which would normally just involve regular grass cutting at the sites. In order to support biodiversity, land management was more complex. There has been lots of work on the Braydon LEMP, working with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT) and introducing new grass cutting regimes.

At Chelworth the land management is able to be more varied with WWT as the land management partner, the pond has been expanded, there is planting and wilding and sheep were introduced to site in 2021. As a result, we have seen good results in species of butterflies and there are newts at the site. We intend to develop more biodiversity projects using additional resource next year working with the WWT.

4 Community Fund (Jon Bateman)

Jon introduced himself as the new Chair of the fund, thanking Peter Newell for his hard work over the years as he now steps down.



Jon then reiterated the purpose of the fund and how it was created by WWCE for the good of the local communities in Wiltshire and Swindon postcodes. Since its creation, WWCE has donated around £10k per annum to fund local projects. He also reminded members that they can forgo their interest payments gifting them into the fund if they choose.

Jon then talked through the structure of the Community Fund panel. He invited members to come forward with new ideas if they thought the structure should be any different. In the absence of these, the panel will continue to be structured as it is currently. The CFP consists of two WWCE members, two people nominated by the WWCE non-executive directors, two WWT representatives including one WWT member. This was unanimously approved.

The mandate for applications for funding is wildlife conservation, carbon reduction, education and fuel poverty relief.

As a group, we are reliant on groups to put their applications forward to the panel and we actively encourage local groups to do this. Jon talked through the various projects that had been funded since inception and how we have received very positive testimonials from those that have benefitted.

5 Marketing & Communications (Russell Abbott)

Russell introduced himself and talked through the rebrand that the group had undertaken, with new, more relevant logo and the creation of brand guidelines to encourage consistency across our outputs.

Russell talked through some of the more recent projects and initiatives, such as the national 'Moths to a flame' and other activity linked to COP 26.

As a group WWCE has received much more traction and coverage in the local and national press, with a particularly good article in the Daily Telegraph.

He explained that we are looking to increase our social media presence and encourage our members to sign up to our digital channels. We are now producing increasing numbers of blogs and output on topical items.

By 2.35pm 30 minutes had elapsed and the meeting was formally declared open from the earlier adjournment.

6 Finances (Angela Wright)

Angela talked through the financial results for the 12 months ending 31 March 2022. The group revenue was £808k and net profit of £8k, which was the first year of profit for the group. Due to tax losses brought forward, no tax was payable, or will be for a while.

Angela then spoke about the current fiscal year which is benefitting from an increased PPA price due to current oil price increases. It is likely the fiscal year to 31 March 23 will be very profitable. The group remain committed to delivering to the Community Fund, getting back to target interest rates and driving initiatives to meet our mission.

Angela then thanked the outgoing auditors, Alan Brookes for all their hard work, as we appointed new auditors in the year, Mander Duffill, based on good corporate governance and regular rotation.



She then spoke through the groups long term modelling and potential upside and downsides for financial projections and spoke about the suggested interest payment for the period to 31 March 22 of 5.5%, to be paid in the next 2 months.

Members were then informed that the group had every intention to return to 7% interest next year, based on the expectation that we would be making profit and generating cash from the high PPA price, with the caveat that all our financial projections are based on what we know today and that these would have to change and adapt if government policy or external forces dictated

7 Eco Initiatives (Jess Thimbleby)

Jess introduced herself and talked about her background and how she had started a hybrid role with WWT and WWCE in March 2022.

Jess's main function was to pursue an energy efficiency project for 'keeping warm this winter'. She has been working with local organizations in Wiltshire to ensure those in need are aware of, have access to, and can benefit from ways to reduce their bills.

There are several upcoming events planned that WWCE via Jess will have a presence at, with the objective of encouraging reduced energy usage and therefore carbon output.

8 Future Projects (Tom Cosgrove)

a) Petersfinger

Looking at what we've achieved,

The Petersfinger initial work is funded through an RCEF grant of £140k, that has been awarded to WWCE with the objective of developing potential solar facility. At Petersfinger the plant is to provide power to the sewage treatment works, via a private grid and power purchase arrangement. The contractual negotiations are still in their early stages.

There is still lots of work to do before planning, but application should be in before the end of 2022.

b) Silverwood

WWCE is currently in discussions with the local council, Silverwood school and Willmott Dixon. The idea behind the new school building is that it would be carbon net zero, so a renewable energy source is a requirement. The roof should host 500kW of panels. WWCE plans to fund and operate the rooftop solar and sell power to the school and back into the grid.

The project should generate funds for both investors and the community fund.

Each of the new projects will be ring fenced within an SPV so they won't dilute current members investments. They can only have a beneficial impact.

Petersfinger is expected to cost around £1-2m, and Silverwood £500k

9 Proposals and Resolutions (Julian Barlow)

The following resolutions were proposed and seconded



- 1) Adopt minutes from last year's AGM (1st Lesley Bennett, 2nd Michael Davies) – result: Approved
- 2) Proposal to pay interest of 5.5% relating to the period to 31 March 2022 (1st Lucy Normington, 2nd Peter Newell) – result: Approved
- 3) Proposal to donate £10k to the Community Fund (1st Richard Death, 2nd Michael Davies) - result: Approved
- 4) Proposal to re-elect Julian Barlow (1st Lesley Bennett, 2nd George Charlton) and David Lewin (1st Michael Davies, 2nd Lucy Normington) to the Board as they retire on rotation - result: Approved

All resolutions were unanimously passed at the meeting

PROXY RESULTS

The results of the proxy votes from members who could not attend are as follows;

Resolution

2) Pay 5.5% interest	Unanimously approved (73 votes)
3) Donate £10k to Community Fund	67 for, 2 against. Result: Approved
4) Julian Barlow re-election	67 for, 1 against. Result: Approved
David Lewin re-election	69 for, 1 against Result: Approved

10. Closing (Julian Barlow)

Closing – Julian thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Julian also thanked the board members for their input and time which he highlighted was offered on a pro bono basis without any remuneration. He also explained that this year would see increased investment in creating tangible outcomes to reduce carbon and improve wildlife which was supported by the AGM.

Lesley updated the members with the fact that we'd supplied over 2,000 homes this year, so each member is 'outputting' 3x more than they're consuming.

With no further questions or matters arising, the meeting then closed.