

MINUTES

For those present (47 including 2 non-members) and apologies (28) please see lists at end.

Welcome and Introductions

David Berry, volunteer for projects and operations, welcome everyone to the meeting and introduced the directors present, the company secretary and Nick Parsons, our new part-time Project Manager.

Minutes of last year's AGM and matters arising

The minutes of last year's meeting were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Chair's Report

Richard Collins informed the meeting about a successful year as far as generation at our current four sites is concerned. However, he informed the meeting that it is frustrating that we have not yet been able to spend the remaining capital from the 2016 share offer.

All four current sites are generating more than predicted. The chair gave details of production, export and usage. He then spoke about the fact that we have been unable to complete another project this year. Projects in development are: Gleadless Surgery where we are waiting for the mortgage company to give their agreement. Pre-accreditation for the feed-in-tariff (FiT) has been done and the Environmental Performance Certificate, structural assessment of the roof and District Network Operator agreement are all in place. Pre-accreditation is necessary as the Feed-in-tariff will end at the end of March. Gaining pre-accreditation means that as long as the system is installed this year the project will be able to receive FiT payments. In reply to a question about the cost of this project the meeting was told that this would be in the region of £36,000 plus some development costs. David Berry asked for his thanks to the staff at Gleadless Surgery to be noted, especially the business manager. A member asked a question about the savings for the surgery – this will be about £600 per year, but there will be added benefits in that South Yorkshire Energy Centre will also be giving advice to any patients in fuel poverty. We were told that in Barnsley there is a GP Federation so that all GPs work together. We hope that once we have one scheme on a GP surgery completed it will encourage others to take it up.

A question was asked about storage batteries. The reply was given that there are some in development that we may be able to use in the future.

Another project is Hope Valley College. We are working in partnership with Hope Valley Renewables on this, as they are not yet incorporated as a legal entity. The college has given its approval. We need to find out if the roof is strong enough for the installation. If it goes ahead it will be a Sheffield Renewables scheme but run with Hope Valley Renewables. We will need to run a small share offer to top up the capital we still hold. Our proposal is to run the share offer in Hope Valley first to get local ownership of the scheme. This will be a small scheme so that we should not need to export any of the electricity produced. Hope Valley is not solely interested in saving money, but more in the benefit to be able to show children in the school about renewable energy.

We are still trying to work with Sheffield City Council. They have given us permission to investigate the roofs on Moorfoot and the Moor Market. On Moorfoot all parts of the roof are in shade at some time of the day. We are currently carrying out investigations. They might not be viable if we cannot get them pre-accredited (i.e. no FiT payments).

Richard then listed the risks and changes that we have to be aware of. Due to the end of the feed-in-tariff we have to be very sure that schemes are matched to site usage. Schemes are liable to be smaller than our initial 50kW ones. In the future it might be possible to sell electricity off-site.

Members asked about hospital sites and the universities. They were told that it is difficult for us, a very small

organisation, to work with very large organisations. Although large organisations have sustainability goals, they often want to address these in their own way.

We were asked whether if there are government changes in the future, would we be able to expand small schemes into larger ones. This might be difficult due to the Power Purchase Agreement and the Lease, but we would look into this if things change. It might be possible to install better panels, rather than more of them.

Another risk if we are unable to replenish board members when they leave. Members were encouraged to contact us if they were interested in joining the board. We have a process where interested members can come along and sit in at board meetings, then become a board observer with a view to becoming a director.

Annual Accounts and Audit Exemption

Abigail Hathway took over as Treasurer when Kiro Tamer moved to London. Abigail took us through the accounts. She informed the meeting that since we started generating electricity we have earned £130,000 of revenue. She took us through this year's figures, pointing out changes from last year.

Questions were asked about loans and depreciation. We do not currently have any loans and depreciation was set at a level agreed with our accountant. We were also asked about whether the rate we charge for electricity increases each year – it is increased each year by the retail price index (RPI).

The accounts were accepted and it was agreed by the meeting that we do not need an audit.

Interest and Capital Payments (application of surplus)

Richard Collins explained about A & B shares. B shares will mature next year. The current payments apply to A shares only. Next year we will put forward an item to align A and B shares. He then took us through the income for the year and what money we need to put aside for reserves, maintenance and operating costs. The total remaining is what we have available to pay interest at 3%, pay into the Community Benefit Fund and repay capital to some shareholders.

A question was asked about where the costs for our new Project Manager will come from. Richard was unsure whether this would need to come from these costs, but if so it would mean £5,000 would need to be deducted from the money available to repay capital. We will write to members when we have looked into this.

The meeting agreed the amounts for the interest payments and the Community Benefit Fund (CBF).

The meeting was then asked to decide how to spend the Community Benefit Fund. A question was asked whether this had to be spent locally, but our rules were checked and this is not the case - our rules state that it has to be given to an organisation with similar aims. Richard informed the meeting that last year we invested some money in TRINE, an overseas organisation providing solar electricity in Africa, and made a donation to South Yorkshire Energy Centre (SYEC). The main points from the report on how SYEC spent this money was read out, and it was noted that the people they worked with gained over £10,000 in benefit.

This year we asked members in advance to nominate organisations to receive CBF this year. Suggestions received were: Sheffield Warm & Well (which is South Yorkshire Energy Centre), Sheffield Climate Alliance and Sheffield City of Sanctuary. For overseas TRINE was nominated again. Members were first asked to decide what percentage of the CBF should be spent overseas: 0%, 10% or 20%. The results were: no-one voted for 0%, 17 members voted for 10% and 22 members voted for 20%. This will mean that £500 will go to TRINE. Members were then asked to vote on spending the local element. The results were: Sheffield City of Sanctuary - 4, Sheffield Climate Alliance - 7, South Yorkshire Energy Centre - 29. Therefore £2,413 will go to SYEC.

Membership

Jean informed the meeting that we currently have 254 members, including 11 non-voting members who used to be active volunteers but who are no longer active. This is decreasing each year as members reclaim their capital. The board this year had discussed inviting our partner organisations to attend the AGM. None had been able to send a representative. The meeting was asked whether we should bring forward a new rule to allow our partner organisations to become members. This was agreed and an amendment to the rules will be brought forward next

year.

Future Directions

Richard informed the meeting that our aims remain unchanged. We have submitted a proposal to Sheffield City Region to explore the possibility of a solar meadow on the old landfill site at Parkwood Springs. Some members were not happy with this proposal as it has all been designated as a country park. We will reconsider this proposal.

Amendments to Rules

Jean informed the meeting that these changes were needed due to recent Co-operative legislation. The amendments were agreed.

Election of Board

Richard Collins, Karthik Suresh and Luke Wilson were standing for re-election. A question was asked about attendance at meetings. It was thought that Richard has attended all meetings, Karthik about half and Luke most of the meetings. They were re-elected on bloc.

Attendees

Frank Abel	Gordon Henshaw
Keith Alford	Richard Hoare
Steve Boswell	Steve Hughes
David Berry	Sophie Macfadyen
Teresa Brill	Ryan Malcolmson
Peter & Louise Bull	Jeana Malhi
Jenny Carpenter	Peter Marsh
John Chapman	Michael Miller
Jon & Sue Clennell	Roy Morris
Ruth Clifford	Nick Parsons (non-member)
Deborah Cobbett	Ken Philip
Richard Collins	Tom Reavy
Tony Collins	Dominic Rice
Jillian Creasy	Robert Spooner
Jim Dignan	Karthik Suresh
Alexi Dimond	Steve Thompson
Josh Dominguez (non-member)	Jean Tinsley
Richard Donkin	Mike Tomson
David Foulstone	Ann & Chris Turk
Sharon Gandy	Philip Watson
Christine Gilligan	Rick Watson
Abigail Hathway	Rowan Watson-Taylor
Rob Hawkins	Christine Whittaker
Dave Hayden	

Apologies

Tony Ball	Jane & Neil Hunter
Emma Bridge	Steve Joseph
Chris Broome	Stewart Kemp
Paul Cocker	Lembas Wholefoods
Patrick Coghlan	Clive Macdonald
John Davies	Ian Menzies
Claire Gregory	Richard Mizzi
Veronica Hardstaff	Sue Morton
Julia Hasledine	Mark Parsons
Heather Hunt	Liz Pickles

Geoff Smith
Swinton Fitzwilliam School
Glen Watson
Jenny & Neil Wells

Christine Whitehouse
Graham Woods
Graham Wroe