

ECOЕ AGM Tues 6th June 2017 19.00 Minutes

1. Attendance/Apologies

Apologies

Caroline Witts	Hilary Wilkinson
Claire Ash-Wheeler	Jane Stanley
David Mezzetti	Jenny Blake
Edward MacMullen	Les bright
Gabriel Wondrauch	Martin Crothall
Geoff Wilkinson	Phil Wright
Gordon Read	Sheila Swarbrick
Hazel-Ann Willson	Susan Kay
Helen Vines	Andrew Shadrake
John Rigby	Martyn Goss

Attendees

Gill Wyatt	Christopher Allen
James Harle	Dave Stanley
Jason Rive	Doug Eltham
John Philips	Douglas Koszerek
Jonathan Dawson	Fuad Al-Tawil
Julie James	Hertha Wood
Kendra Brown	Sonya Bedford
Andrew Extance	Jeff Ridley
Andrew Lovering	Miles Davey
Christine Barkla	Alastair Mumford
Margretta Bowstead	Paul Steed
Martin Kelman	Peter Bowers
Mathew Mizielinski	Sarah Alsbury
Michael Morgan	Simon James
Steve Key	

2. Information on voting procedure was provided

3. 2016 AGM Minutes Members agreed the minutes were an accurate representation

4. Annual Report Presentation

Solar PV 1 and 2:

Lost a couple of the smaller roofs but gained more including the Technology Centre which was a very large roof. A Devon-wide project didn't not fulfill expectations and only one roof was realized.

The year didn't happen as expected. We were hoping things would complete on time but did happen in time. Getting full generation at Great Moor House was difficult and FIT registrations were slow. One application had a difficulty with the registration which meant the FIT rate was lower than thought.

Displays have had difficulties but these are getting sorted.

- 4 Sites annual summary:

Four sites have been operational for a year. Shillingford has performed as expected, Wonford has been generated lower than expected but usage is higher. Central Library is performing as expected but the adopted panel is 30% lower than expected. Will be investigated at annual inspection. Great Moor House had delays with being fully connected but is now performing as expected.

Total generation for the eight sites was 230,585 kWh.

- Successes and challenges:

Slowness of completing Solar PV 1 and 2. Problem with FiT registration of PRBC. Problem fully connecting GMH, three displays were problematic.

Great to have Exeter College agree to the installation, installations completed to achieve pre-registered FiT rates (apart from PRBC)

ECO2 Community solar loan for £70,000 raised.

ECO2: Heat

DCC have decided that they do not want to undertake third party heat provision at County Hall. However, work was very useful for future projects.

Energy Efficiency

Been seeking funding to take projects forward but unfortunately no success as yet. However, the process has helped us to firm up our thinking around the projects and so better placed to take them forward.

Communications, Publicity and events:

Small increase in supporters and social media followers. One of the problems is that since Joe Smee left we haven't had a dedicated person to take on the marketing director role. We now have volunteers to do some of the marketing roles and so hopefully we will find someone to take on the director role.

We run a regular energy conversations event but do want to do more outreach work and hope to develop this over the next few months.

Members

Have a new membership database so please register and update your information if you haven't. ECOE sent out all Enterprise Initiative Scheme certificates that were requested.

We are planning to release an online survey for members, maybe supporters at a later date, to help us find out more about our members and their motivations and ECOEs future priorities. We're interested in the issues to enable participation. We will report back on the findings.

Finance/annual accounts:

Financial situation is in line with the business plan. We have a deficit and this is down to set up costs. We've developed a cash flow model for ECOE to help see where we are going and this enable us to project through to the end of the panels life and this is giving positive news.

From Feb 1st 2017 and future projects

Update on government policy

Not much has happened at all really, and community energy has fallen off the political radar. Brexit will now mop up lots of legislative time so there may well be little development over next two years.

Community Fund

Our current idea is to have an application form and then invite community groups to apply. At an event, organisations can then pitch for funding.

Future projects:

- *Solar PV 3*
We've been wondering if we can make things work at the current FIT rate. It does work but only where installation costs are low, high consumption or zero cost grid connection costs and the site happy with a higher PPA price. Also we could reduce payments to the community energy fund. We're putting in a funding bid to explore some new PV sites.
- *Hydro: Trews and Otterton Mill*
We're now investigating hydro in Exeter and Otterton and its early days but we hope to have more news soon.
- *Heat*
Focusing on the off-gas area of Exwick. There are no commercial operations and the school is on gas. Speaking to Costcutters and Exwick Community Centre which are nearby and then there is houses around. We're talking to social housing organisations who have properties in the area as well. The Phoenix maybe interested in a small Combined Heat and Power system.
- *Energy Efficiency*

Some projects being developed but are focus is on finding funding. We've got some standard text so applying is an efficient process and hopefully we will have some success this year

- *Storage, local supply*

We are looking into energy storage for the domestic, commercial markets, as well as co-located within solar PV or stand alone. The Carbon Trust are offering a grant for energy storage. Unsure of how local supply fits with our ethos but keeping it on the radar.

Questions

Sarah Allsbury: how much could we do to help the existing sites to reduce their energy consumption? Are we looking into anaerobic digestion?

Gill: We will be inviting our existing sites to apply for the community fund. One of our sites has already spoken to us about applying.. We've spoken to the Phoenix about whether we could do a LED project with them. Certainly thinking about it, unfortunately it is a bit more complicated. We haven't looked into AD, would be happy to

Simon: Concerning future reductions in interest rates would this be for future projects only?

Gill: Yes, future only, it would involve setting up a special purposes vehicle to keep the money from that project separate.

Dave Sanley: when you think of the elderly in poor housing, how would the Healthy Homes project help them?

Gill: Its all about links between cold damp homes, illhealth and fuel poverty. We'd get referrals from front-line workers, community groups and self referrals – provide home visits with energy audit, advice, income maximization, switching, installation of low cost measures and grant info for higher cost measures. People can be self-referred or through a third-party.

Hertha: The Healthy Homes is similar to a Plymouth project and they came to talk at one of our events and was very inspiring.

5. Annual accounts

5.1 Presentation of accounts

Prepared under new accounting regulations.

Income has been £47,000 and expenditure is £65,000 so we have a deficit of around £18,000. The deficit includes significant one-off costs of £21,000. So if we excluded these one-off costs we have a trading profit of £3,000 for the year. This is what recommends putting in the community fund.

Total net worth is much like what we expected: £356,000.

In terms of our financial projections for the next 20 years we can confirm that we can pay interest on shares, that people will be able cash in share from December 2019 and that we can allocate money to the community fund.

5.2 Questions

None

5.3 Voting

5.3.1 *Approve the Directors' recommendation to pay share interest to members at the rate of 5% per annum for 14 months from 1 December 2016 to 31 January 2017 (i.e. 5.8333% per share)*

Members present plus proxy votes approved unanimously

5.3.2 *Approve the Directors' recommendation to allocate £3000 to the Community Fund*

Members present plus proxy votes approved unanimously

5.3.3 *Approve the Accounts for the year ended 31 January 2017*

Members present plus proxy votes approved unanimously

5.3.4 *Approve the Directors' recommendation to not require a full professional audit of the Accounts.*

Members present plus proxy votes approved unanimously

6. Appointment of Directors

6.1 Voting for directors standing for re-election: Gill Wyatt and Hertha Taverner-Wood.

- Gill Wyatt,
Members present plus proxy votes approved unanimously Gill's re-election
- Hertha Taverner Wood
Members present plus proxy votes approved unanimously Hertha's re-election
- Gabriel Wondrausch has stood down as a Director
Gill thanks Gabriel for all his help, particularly in the early years.

7. Any other business

ECOE gives great thanks to Stephens Scown, Devon County Council, Regen SW, DARE, NatureSave and funders UCEF, DCC and private benefactors.

8. Close at 20.15