

Annual General Meeting 2019

Saturday 22 June 9.00am - 9.45am

Howard Building, Sheffield Hallam University

Present in person: 22 members

Participating on-line: 4 members

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Afsheen Rashid, Chair of Community Energy England (CEE), opened the meeting and welcomed attendees.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

Approval of the minutes of the previous AGM was proposed by Kayla Ente from Brighton and Hove Energy Services Co-operative and seconded by Pamela Harling from En10ergy. No questions were raised.

3. Voting for appointment of directors

The Chair reported that, as per the organisation's rules, Directors are obliged to stand down after thirty-three months' service. Kathy Smyth from Springbok Sustainable Wood Heat (Community) and Peter Capener from Bath and West Community Energy (Community) were both obliged to stand down by rotation, with Peter Capener re-standing. Mark Kenber stood down as a representative from Mongoose Energy (Community) and re-stood as a representative from Brighton and Hove Energy Services Co-operative (Community). Mark Luntley stood as a representative from Energy4all (Community) and Helen Seagrave stood as a representative from Electricity North West (Corporate) (full details of director nominations can be found here: https://communityenergyengland.org/files/document/325/1561475452_DirectorNominations2019.pdf). The ballot was not competitive, so members were asked to vote for, against, or to abstain from voting for the nominees. Member organisations unable to attend the AGM were given the opportunity to vote online prior to the AGM, or nominate a proxy to vote on their behalf.

Mark Luntley and Helen Seagrave were present and were asked to give a brief overview of why they wanted to be on the board of CEE. Emma Bridge spoke on behalf of Peter Capener and Kayla Ente spoke for Mark Kenber, as neither was able to be present.

Voting was then completed and counting began to enable the results to be announced before the end of the meeting.

The Chair thanked the outgoing director for their work as one of the founding directors of CEE.

4. Reports by the Chair, Chief Executive

Afsheen Rashid, in her role as Chair of CEE, briefed members on key CEE activity and priorities over the last year. Afsheen reminded members of CEE's updated Vision and Mission, then gave an overview of CEE's activities over the past twelve months and how they supported the Vision and Mission. She also reminded delegated of CEE's priorities, which are:

- Advocacy
- Capacity Building
- Communications and PR.

Afsheen updated members on CEE's key activity and how it fed into these priorities. In 2018 CEE worked closely with trade associations and other stakeholders; strengthening partnerships and facilitating knowledge sharing throughout the sector. She noted that CEE had developed a strong relationship with BEIS over the past twelve months, partnering on Green Great Britain Week and ensuring that community energy was included in Claire Perry MP's narrative.

She noted that CEE's work in highlighting the benefits of the sector and championing its successes has been key, events such as the Community Energy Awards 2018 and the release of the State of the Sector Report 2018 all fed into a narrative which led to increased media presence around CEE and the wider sector. Afsheen noted that CEE has also been adding its voice to others' communications activities, such as its support of CSE's report 'Bringing local energy benefits to deprived communities'.

Afsheen noted that CEE supported capacity building in the sector through hosting events, such as the Community Energy Afternoon of Big Ideas, Energy Efficiency in Your Community and Life after FiTs. CEE has also been engaging with funders to increase their understanding of the sector.

Afsheen also reported that CEE has been working on its internal governance structure, ensuring that its practice is leading the way for the sector. All CEE policies have been updated and several members of the Executive Team and Board have completed mental health first aid training.

Afsheen invited delegates to ask any questions; a shareholder from Sheffield Renewables queried as to whether CEE accepts individual membership. Afsheen noted that CEE would be assessing the benefits of individual membership in the coming year.

Emma Bridge, Chief Executive of Community Energy England, gave her forecast of the year ahead for CEE. She began by noting that direct feedback from CEE's annual member survey will directly influence CEE's activity over the next year.

CEE has appointed a new Policy and Advocacy Manger, who will be based in London and will be a key point of contact for members interested in engaging in policy. Emma updated members on upcoming actions and activity, including the Loomio group that has been created for members to engage and discuss ideas as an informal network.

CEE will focus on communicating the benefits of community energy on a local and national level, including participation in the second annual Green Great Britain Week. Green Great Britain Week will give CEE greater lobbying power; it has already been agreed that the Friday

will be Community Action Day. CEE is planning several events for the next year to build capacity in the sector, including events and webinars and opportunities for members to share learning. Emma noted that CEE will continue to build on its internal process development, with a stress on exploring ways in which the sector can increase diversity and inclusion.

Emma then invited questions from members; a member of Sheffield Renewables asked what incentives CEE had in place to encourage engagement from local authorities. Emma answered that community energy organisations need to make their local council aware of the benefits of the sector and ensure that it is at the heart of every decision. Jon Halle from Shareenergy asked, given CEE's turnover, should the organisation consider becoming a registered charity. Afsheen noted that the current board had assessed the status of the organisation and felt that the current business type is fit for function and that CEE should not seek to become a registered charity just to reduce its tax. It was also noted that if CEE were to become a registered charity it would not be able to campaign in the same way it currently does, and this does not fit in with CEE's current organisational priorities.

5. Financial accounts

Emma outlined the draft accounts for 2018 (available https://communityenergyengland.org/files/document/326/1561475452_CommunityEnergy-RevisedAccounts.pdf). She gave details of CEE's annual turnover, cost of sales, and income, which included the roll over of deferred grant income which had not been spent in the previous financial year. Emma commented that project and event costs were the main expenditure in 2018; CEE shouldered the costs of events to make them free for the sector and maintained the free access community energy hub on behalf of the sector. She also commented that overall expenditure had increased as CEE had hosted an intern through the CharityWorks programme for a full year. Emma then expanded on the balance sheet, noting that debtors were mainly in relation to overdue membership fees at the year end, however, much of this overdue amount has been recovered since.

The accounts were approved (motion put forward by Jon Halle from Shareenergy and seconded by Mark Luntley from Energy4all).

6. Election of Directors

Jeana Malhi and Charlotte Heywood, who supervised the accounts, passed the results to the Chair, who announced that Peter Capener, Mark Kenber, Mark Luntley and Helen Seagrave had been appointed to the board.

7. Any other business

No other business was reported.

Afsheen thanked all members for their continued support and closed the meeting.