

Community Energy England AGM 2022: Amendment to articles of association



Introduction

As you may know, the chair of the CEE board, Afsheen Rashid, has temporarily stepped away from her role to go on maternity leave, starting in March 2022. As an organisation, we have reviewed our board, its structure and the skills of board members and chose to appoint Helen Seagrave as interim chair until the 2023 AGM. This period will give Afsheen enough time to enjoy her maternity, and re-embed herself back in the CEE board, as well as her own organisation. Helen commenced this role in March 2022, following an amendment to the CEE bye laws agreed by the board.

Helen has been on the board of CEE since 2019 and chaired CEE's governance committee, which steers internal governance procedures. Many of you may know Helen as the Community Energy Manager of Electricity North West, the distribution network operator. She has extensive experience of the sector and is a Chartered Environmentalist with 20 years' experience in developing and delivering strategies and programmes to develop the green economy.

Helen will be supported by our deputy chair, Peter Capener, who is the Managing Director of Bath & West Community Energy and a pioneer practitioner in the sector.

Both Helen and Peter are standing for re-election to the CEE board at the 2022 AGM.

Amendment to articles of association

Our articles of association currently state that CEE can only be chaired by a representative from a community member organisation. In order for Helen, who we are confident is the right person to steer Community Energy England's board, to continue as interim chair until the 2023 AGM, an amendment will need to be made to the articles.

Consequently, a special resolution is proposed:

"IT IS RESOLVED that Article 14(1) of the articles of association of Community Energy Association (England) Limited be disapplied only in relation to the first meeting of the board of directors of Community Energy Association (England) Limited following this annual general meeting (being the annual general meeting held in 2022). Article 14(1) currently reads:

At the first directors' meeting following each annual general meeting, the directors shall, in accordance with the bye-laws, appoint a director who is a representative of the community members to chair their meetings.

The disapplication of Article 14(1) will enable the board of directors of Community Energy Association (England) Limited to appoint a non-community member as their chair only until their first meeting after the next annual general meeting (being the annual general meeting to be held in 2023) in accordance with the bye-laws”.

Next steps

This amendment will be voted on by CEE members at our AGM on 13 July 2022.

As always, thank you for your support of Community Energy England. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Philip Coventry on p.coventry@communityenergyengland.org