

# Annual General Meeting 2016

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2016, 9.00am-9.50am

Saïd Business School, University of Oxford

**Present in person:** 23 members

**Participating on-line:** 12 members

## 1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Philip Wolfe, Chair of CEE, opened the meeting and all members gave introductions.

## 2. Minutes of the previous AGM

The minutes of the previous AGM were agreed.

## 3. Motion 1

It was proposed that CEE's bye-laws be amended to allow up to 10 Elected Directors. The bye-laws currently allow for a maximum of 9 Elected Directors and a total of 11 directors, including Elected and Co-opted Directors.

**The motion was approved unanimously** (motion put forward by Ross Weddle and seconded by Mike Blanch).

## 4. Voting for appointment of directors

The Chair reported that, as per the organisation's rules, three directors were standing down at the AGM. The directors standing down were Paul Brodrick, Pete Capener and Ross Weddle. Pete Capener was standing for re-election.

Alex Germanis, Pure Leapfrog, was co-opted after the last AGM due to the close nature of the votes. According to CEE rules, co-opted directors should only serve one term before standing for election. He was proposed for re-election by the Board and was willing to stand. As a Co-opted Director, the election process for Alex Germanis was a separate vote and members were given the opportunity to vote yes or no to his re-election.

In addition to Pete Capener offering himself for re-election, a further three candidates were putting themselves forward for election. They were Paul Monaghan from Co-operative Energy, Chris Rowland from Community Energy South, and Giovanna Speciale from South East London Community Energy. (Further details of all candidates can be found at:

<http://communityenergyengland.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Item-3-Director-Nominations-1.pdf>).

Up to three candidates could be voted for with those receiving the highest votes being asked on to the board. As per CEE rules, one of the directors appointed had to be from the private sector. Candidates were to be elected to the board based on individual knowledge, expertise and contribution, rather than as a representative of an organisation.

Member organisations unable to attend the AGM had been given the opportunity to vote on-line prior to the meeting.

All candidates that were present were asked to give a brief overview of why they wanted to be on the board of CEE. Philip Wolfe spoke on behalf of Pete Capener and Emma Bridge read out Giovanna's submission.

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

## **5. Reports by the Chair, Chief Executive and Treasurer**

Philip summarised the range of policy and regulatory changes that the sector had faced over the last 12 months. It was still uncertain what these changes would mean for the sector, particularly with the impact of Brexit and the abolition of DECC still to be seen. There were opportunities however, with energy being potentially more mainstreamed within the new Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. The sector had also managed to flourish despite the number of hurdles with a huge growth in the number and scale of community energy projects. This rate of growth may not continue post September, but the sector was resilient and new business models were already being explored.

Philip then gave an overview of changes to CEE over the past year. CEE now had 200 members, 82% of which were community energy enterprises. The organisation had received funding from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation for 3 years to support the sector during this transitional period. Two further members of staff had been hired, bringing the total to three. CEE also now had its own office in Sheffield.

Philip stated that he was standing down as Chair and was handing over to Afsheen Rashid. Unfortunately, due to train delays Afsheen was unable to make the AGM but would be at the conference later. Philip was thanked by the board and members for his hard work and it was noted the CEE would not have achieved as much without his drive and dedication.

Emma Bridge, CEE Chief Executive, then set out CEE's priorities for the next 12 months on behalf of Afsheen. These were:

- Communication community energy – increasing the profile and understanding of community energy
- Data gathering – to more effectively evidence the impact that community energy had.
- Policy support – advising members of changes to policy that may impact the sector as well as lobbying for changes to policy
- Sector support – through sharing best practice, further developing the Community Energy Hub, running workshops and increasing skills and expertise
- Member engagement – more tailored support and working with members to increase the profile of their work

She then looked back CEE's activity to date. She noted that up to now most activity had been related to responding to the vast number of consultations, lobbying and helping the sector to adjust to the changes. A lot of work had also been undertaken in gathering data on sector achievements, challenges and plans for the future, building a team, increasing membership, taking on ownership of the Community Energy Hub and building relationships with changing government.

Looking forward, much of CEE's operational activity would be:

- Increasing the profile of community energy
- Growing membership to increase national voice
- Undertaking the first State of the Sector survey and report
- Sharing new business models and best practice
- Policy advice and briefings
- Development of the Community Energy Hub
- Member workshops e.g. asset management, business modelling, energy efficiency, heat

It was requested that more clarity be provided on using the Hub as well as a functionality for organisations to share ideas.

## 6. Financial accounts

Robert Rabinowitz, CEE's Treasurer, outlined the draft accounts (available [here](#)). He noted that an accountant had prepared the accounts and that the financial period being reported was January – December 2015. The grant funding received from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation was received in January 2016 and so did not show in this set of accounts. A discussion took place around the potential for the growth of membership. It was noted that CEE would continue to receive the majority of funding from membership and would continue to focus on how most effectively to support its members and the sector. Any grant funding would be used to support this and CEE would remain 'on mission' rather than chasing alternative funding.

**The accounts were approved** (motion put forward by Mark Luntley and seconded by Paul Martin).

## 7. Motion 2

It was proposed that Directors be financially compensated for time spent on CEE matters. The proposed amount would be £1,000 per annum per Director and £2,000 per annum for the Chair. If approved this would take effect pro rata from the date of the AGM. Payment would be made at the end of each financial year, subject to funds and Directors would be able to waive payment.

The proposal was welcomed by a number of members as a good example of inclusivity as it opens involvement outside of just those who are financially better off.

**The motion was approved** with a majority of 25 to 4 (motion put forward by Tom Parkinson and seconded by Andrew Shadrake). CEE directors abstained from voting.

## **8. Election of Directors**

Jon Hall and Charlotte Heywood, who had supervised the count, passed the results to the Chair, who announced that Pete Capener, Alex Germanis, Paul Monaghan and Chris Rowland had been appointed to the board.

Giovanna was thanked for putting herself forward as it was important for CEE's success for members to be engaged in its processes. Valuing her academic links and on the ground experience, other ways of engaging Giovanna and other members would be explored.

## **9. Any other business**

No other business was reported.

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