# Annual General Meeting 2015

**Wednesday 30th September 2015, 4.15pm-5.15pm**

**Pinsents Masons LLP, 3 Colmore Circus, Queensway, Birmingham, B4 6BH**

**Present in person:** 16 members

**Participating by proxy**: The following members has presented proxy votes: Bath & West Community Energy, Community Energy Warwickshire, Furzedown Low Carbon Zone, Harbury Energy Initiative, Low Carbon Hub, Nadder Community Energy, Sheffield Renewables, Siemens, Sustainable Kirtlington, West Cornwall Community Renewables, Westmill Windfarm Co-operative

## Welcome, introductions and apologies

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

## Voting for appointment of directors

Philip reported that, as per the organisation’s rules, three directors were standing down at the AGM. The directors standing down were Paul Brodrick, Philip Wolfe and Robert Rabinowitz, all were standing for re-election. 3 further candidates were putting themselves forward for election. They were Tom Bradley from Narec Distributed Energy, Alex Germanis from Pure Leapfrog and Chris Rowland from Community Energy South. (Further details of all candidates can be found at: <http://communityenergyengland.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Director_Nominations.pdf>).

Members unable to attend the AGM had been given the opportunity to vote on-line. Members present for the AGM, along with those who had attended the Shared Ownership event immediately prior to the AGM but were unable to stay for the AGM itself, had been given voting forms. Up to three candidates could be voted for with those receiving the highest votes being asked on to the board. According to the rules, one of the directors appointed had to be from the private sector.

All candidates that were present were asked to give a brief overview of why they wanted to be on the board of CEE. Adam Marvel spoke on behalf of Alex Germanis. Voting was then completed, and counting started to enable the results to be announced before the end of the meeting.

## Reports by the Chair, Chief Executive and Treasurer

Philip gave an overview of progress over the past 12 months:

* CEE is only 15 months old yet has nearly 200 members. 70% of these are community energy enterprises with the remaining 30% from private, public and third sector
* It is financially self-sufficient and has had its Chief Executive in post since late 2014
* CEE objectsinclude:
  + helping the establishmentof community energy initiatives inter alia by providing access to the expertise of established community energy organisations and others
  + creating new opportunitiesfor community renewable energy and energy efficiency projects by working with both commercial and public sectors to develop successful delivery partnerships
  + providing a voicefor community energy organisations in making inputs to policy and regulation, working in collaboration with others and independently
  + disseminating the achievementsof the sector, mentoring, providing best practice materials and providing a forum for community energy enterprises to collaborate, become more professional, and achieve continuous improvement
  + providing a networkwithin which community energy organisations can maximise their outreach when seeking membership, funding and other inputs for their projects
* CEE has strong representation. It has been accepted as the voice of community energy in England, is working closely with Community Energy Scotland and Wales, the CEO and a director sits on the ministerial Community Energy Contact group, has 3 directors on the Shared Ownership Taskforce and is represented on the Community Shares Strategic Reference Group.

Philip then set out the current policy and regulatory framework highlighting the unstable environment which has meant the CEE has had to focus most of its time ‘firefighting’, numerous consultation responses and unexpected ‘curve balls’. This has all had to be balanced with working with colleagues in the wider sustainable energy sector whilst ensuring ‘special pleading’ for community energy.

Looking ahead CEE cannot expect a huge growth in membership income but we need more resource to do our job effectively and to gather better data about our members and the sector. We have applied for funding to increase capacity but the continuing support of our members will be crucial.

Emma Bridge, CEE’s Chief Executive, gave a brief overview of some of the operational achievements and challenges. Some of the achievements included:

* Influencing policy; for example winning an extension to the Enterprise Investment Scheme for community energy enterprises
* Information sharing and development of good practice
* Newsletter capturing key policy impacts and changes
* Developing shared ownership resources as part of sco-res.uk
* Delivering events such as policy seminars, conferences and the community energy awards

She stated that it had been a frustrating and challenging year with an unprecedented level of change and obstacles. It was important however to remember achievements and the level of growth that the sector had seen. She would be working with members over the next 12 months to build a stronger case for community energy and to develop innovative business models that link generation, efficiency, usage and supply more effectively.

## Financial accounts

Robert Rabinowitz, CEE’s Treasurer, outlined the accounts (available [here](http://communityenergyengland.org/about/acs_2014/)).

**The accounts were approved** (motion put forward by Andrew Shadrake and seconded by Lesley Bennett).

**It was agreed that auditors should not be appointed** (motion put forward by Paul Martin, seconded by Chris Rowland)

## Election of Directors

Rachel Hayes and Ross Weddle, who had supervised the count passed the results to the chairman, who announced that Paul Brodrick, Robert Rabinowitz and Philip Wolfe were re-appointed to the board.

Noting that, as is often the case, the incumbent directors had succeeded in being re-elected, Philip advised that the votes had been close. The board would therefore explore ways in which others of the excellent group of new candidates could be better involved in the activities of the association.

## Any other business

It was reported that Piclo would be launching the following day.

Kathy Smyth asked everyone to complete CEE’s FiTs survey and to circulate to their contacts. She also advised that she was gathering information on which MPs were for, against and undecided re renewables and asked members to send her any information they may have relating to this.

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