

Annual General Meeting 2017

Saturday 24th June 9.00am-9.45am

Renold Building, University of Manchester

Present in person: 29 members

Participating on-line: 7 members

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Afsheen Rashid, Chair of Community Energy England (CEE), opened the meeting and all members gave introductions. Apologies were given for CEE Board members unable to attend.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

Approval of the minutes of the previous AGM was proposed by Philip Wolfe from Westmill Solar Co-Operative and seconded by Kayla Ente from BHESCo. No questions were raised.

3. Voting for appointment of directors

The Chair reported that, as per the organisation's rules, four directors were standing down at the AGM. The directors standing down were Rachel Hayes from Regen, Afsheen Kabir Rashid from Repowering London, Kathy Smyth from Sharenergy and Deborah Trebilco from Community Hydro Forum. Each sought re-election. In addition to the directors standing down as per the organisation's rules, Alex Germanis from Pure Leapfrog, Robert Rabinowitz from Mongoose Energy, Chris Rowland from Community Energy South and Philip Wolfe also stood down and were not re-standing.

In addition to the four directors offering themselves for re-election, a further three candidates put themselves forward for election. They were Mark Kenber from Mongoose Energy, Ollie Pendred from Community Energy South and Giovanna Speciale from South East London Community Energy. (Further details of all candidates can be found at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxQGrwtRiFczc2tjWlhJMFcwWVU/view?usp=sharing>).

As the ballot was not competitive and the number of nominees did not exceed the available spaces on the Board, members were asked to vote for, against or to abstain from voting for each of the nominees.

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. Emma Bridge spoke for Rachel Hayes and Giovanna Speciale, Chris Rowland spoke for Ollie Pendred and Philip Wolfe spoke for Kathy Smyth, as each were not present.

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

The Chair thanked the outgoing directors for their work.

4. Reports by the Chair, Chief Executive

Afsheen Kabir Rashid in her role of Chair of CEE, reported that as the AGM had been brought forward, much of 2016's activity had been covered in the previous year's AGM.

Afsheen updated members on the political changes over the past nine months, including uncertainty around Brexit, ministerial changes as well as policy changes and how they could impact on CEE and the wider sector.

Afsheen reported on how CEE has been working to negate these impacts and gave members an update on key CEE activity, including policy development and lobbying of government. Afsheen then gave members an outline of CEE's role within the wider landscape and CEE's work with wider stakeholders, to aid engagement with strategic policies.

Afsheen reported back to members on key CEE activity since the last board meeting in September and key publications, such as the fuel poverty case study and consultations that CEE have fed into. Afsheen also updated members on the new website and progressing work on the community energy hub. She updated members on key CEE events and CEE's lead role on Community Energy Fortnight for the first time this year. Afsheen also updated members on the State of the Sector survey, which was to be launched at the Community Energy Conference, following the AGM.

Afsheen then gave an overview of CEE's membership breakdown, the number of members who paid fees in 2016, those whose membership was free and the split between corporate, community and public membership. She reported that the majority of core funding came from the on Esmée Fairbairn Foundation but that a membership drive would be undertaken over the next few months.

Afsheen then gave members the opportunity to give questions and comments; attending members queried the process of becoming a paying member and asked for more clarity around membership payments.

Emma Bridge, CEE Chief Executive, then set out CEE's priorities for the next year. These were:

- Policy influencing and analysis of policy in the wake of Brexit and the Election
- Creating greater links and relationships with wider government departments
- Linking with sympathetic MPs within the new government
- Using the data gathered from the State of the Sector survey to identify key sector support needs and opportunities
- Sharing best practice and learning around new business models
- Publications outlining the strengths of and opportunities for the community energy sector

- More member events
- Working with key stakeholders to ensure that work isn't duplicated and that the needs of the sector were effectively represented.

Emma then invited questions from members, none were asked.

5. Financial accounts

Emma outlined the draft accounts for the year ended December 2016 (available [here](#)). She reported that £51k of grant funding from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation had been rolled forward to 2017 for the development of the State of the Sector report and further activity based on the outcomes of the survey and gave details on outstanding membership fees.

Emma agreed to share a plan with members on how CEE would become financially self-sufficient whilst remaining true to the core mission of CEE to support and grow the sector. She would also be undertaking work to attract membership from a broader range of organisations supporting the sector, such as universities, local authorities and philanthropists. Research and advice for non-members and support for funded projects would also now be charged for where appropriate.

The accounts were approved (motion put forward by Philip Wolfe and seconded by Barbara Hammond).

6. Election of Directors

Jon Hall and Charlotte Heywood, who had supervised the count, passed the results to the Chair, who announced that Rachel Hayes, Mark Kenber, Ollie Pendred, Afsheen Rashid, Kathy Smyth, Giovanna Speciale and Deborah Trebilco 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.