



## **SSCES Annual General Meeting 2019**

Date Held: 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019 at 11:00 am

Location: Wheeldon Committee Room 1, Westlands Entertainment Venue, Westborne Close, Yeovil, BA20 2DD

### **Minutes**

Attending:-

- Directors: John Christmas – Chairman (JC), John Clark – Secretary (JEC), Chris Adcock – Treasurer (CA), David Rabone (DR), Rob Cotterill (RC)
- Members: J.Rabone(JR), A.Adcock, P.Chapman, H.Lovegrove, C & D Nichols, D & J Phillips.

Apologies: -

- Brian Farrell (BF)
- 9 Members
- 4 Guests – (Inc. representatives from Holyrood Academy, SolarSense, Abbey Manor Community Hall).

#### **1. Welcome by John Christmas, Chair**

JC welcomed everyone and referred to his Chairman's report on the year's activities, which had been circulated in advance (copy attached). No questions were raised regarding his report.

#### **2. Acceptance of the Minutes of the last AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018.**

The minutes of the last AGM were read out by the Secretary. Acceptance was proposed by JR and seconded by JC. Accepted by the Members.

#### **3. Summary of activities from John Clark, Company Secretary.**

JEC gave a Secretary's Report on a few commercial points of interest: -

- Despite receiving accreditation after exhaustive checks, the Society's Stanchester generator was audited by company Black and Veatch on behalf of Ofgem "to verify that correct information has been provided for the accreditation of the station for FITs and the station is entitled to be accredited". Because of the clash of the audit with other priorities and the Secretary's hospitalisation, the audit was found to be 'Unsatisfactory' and a deadline for the return of outstanding information given. After a 2 weeks extension had been agreed, this had been complied with, at a direct cost of £650 to the Society for Solarsense costs, and substantial investment of time for the Secretary. It was agreed that once the audit compliance was received, the Secretary would submit a 'Freedom of information' request, to establish the legitimacy and extent of such audits, the cost to the taxpayer and the terms of reimbursement by Ofgem.
- The Secretary updated the AGM with respect to the Crewkerne Solar Farm opportunity. Although there was originally intended to be a buy-in opportunity for SSCES in June 2018 when the bonds expired, this was not possible as BWCE needed to increase the loan portion of the project. However, there was still an opportunity to buy into the equity of the project, and discussions were ongoing with BWCE. For example, a 20% purchase of equity might cost about £500k. The project was solidly based at good early FIT rates, but there was uncertainty about future wholesale prices for the sale of the electricity generated. There were also other legal and financial issues to work through.



- There was a debate about the role of Community Energy Society's role in the 'post-FIT' era. It seemed that large rooftop projects could still be viable and there may be other opportunities for ground-based arrays, Renewable Heat Incentive and battery storage. Discussion within the Somerset Community Energy would investigate this further.

#### **4. Chris Adcock (Treasurer): SSCES finances and annual accounts.**

Chris circulated a PowerPoint report on the accounts (attached): the accounts themselves had been circulated in advance. There was a query raised over why the 6% interest payment were not accounted for in the accounts. The examiner had advised the Society not to, as until the AGM and agreement of Resolution 2, this amount was not guaranteed.

P.Chapman raised a question over the cost of maintenance at the schools, following the recent requirement for panels to be removed from Westfield Academy in order for the roof to be replaced on the science block. He suggested we enquire to the schools or local council as they should have an ongoing maintenance plan and budget for such works and with this information the society would be better equipped to account for such future expense.

Cleaning costs were questioned by D.Nichols. Cleaning companies often suggest panels are cleaned annually but it is an expensive luxury which is not cost effective. DN advised that a visual inspection would determine if this would be a requirement as opposed to planning this in annually. The Board may need to consider using a drone to assess this as not all panels are accessible.

P.Chapman also advised that Dorset Community Energy do not read the meters, they have an automated system. He believed this was approx. £30 per installation. They are then inspected every 2 years.

#### **5. Resolution 1: That the accounts of South Somerset Community Energy Limited are approved (independently examined).**

This was proposed by JEC, and seconded by DR. It was passed unanimously.

#### **6. Resolution 2: That the proposed interest of 6% to ordinary shareholders for the financial year to 31st December 2018 is approved.**

This was proposed by JR and seconded by RC. It was passed unanimously.

#### **7. Any other Resolutions put forward by Members (see Note 1 below).**

There were no other Resolutions

#### **8. Election of Directors (See note 2 below).**

- Chris Adcock and David Rabone retired by rotation but stood for re-election. They were proposed by JR and seconded by JEC (passed unanimously).
- Henry Lovegrove was proposed by JC and seconded by DR (passed unanimously).
- David and Carolyn Nichols were proposed by DR and seconded by JEC (passed unanimously).

The Chairman closed the meeting at 11.50am.