

## **Heart of England Community Energy Limited (HECE)**

### **Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting**

The third Annual General Meeting of Heart of England Community Energy Ltd was held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 19:00 via Zoom online webinar. 13 Shareholders and 4 bond holders attended the meeting.

Please see the AGM presentation for further details on the points in the minutes below.

#### Minutes

1. John Stott (Chair) welcomed the members and guests.
2. John Stott (Chair) gave an update on:
  - a. Performance of solar farms, which has exceeded long-term projections to date.
  - b. Ofgem's audit of the Leys accreditation for the Renewables Obligation, which was passed.
  - c. An update to the Land and Environmental Plan which is intended to improve biodiversity at the sites.
  - d. Payment of full 5% bond interest which was made on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021.
  - e. Plan to pay full 6% share interest in July 2021.
  - f. Community projects supported by HECE, including;
    - i. £14,500 of funding for Act on Energy,
    - ii. £2,500 of funding for Solar Aid Africa,
    - iii. £6,300 grant to Citizens Advice South Warwickshire,
    - iv. £365 grant to Stratford upon Avon Foodbank.
3. John Stott (Chair) then presented the following financial information:
  - a. An extract from the consolidated statement of comprehensive income from the group accounts.
  - b. The consolidated group balance sheet at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.
  - c. Cashflow projections for the group out to 2042.
  - d. The group's borrowing, how it has changed over time and how it is projected to change through 2021.
  - e. The group refinancing, including a reduction in interest rate on the SASC loans which was effective from May 2021 and the board's plan to complete a further bond offer in 2021 with a target of up to £1.1m to refinance the existing bond capital and part of the shorter-term element of the SASC loans.
4. Formal AGM business:
  - a. John Stott noted that the HECE group consolidated accounts in respect of the year ending on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 had been made available on the HECE website in advance of the meeting. Tony McNally proposed that the accounts be filed. Tony Guy seconded that motion. The members present voted in favour of filing the accounts.
  - b. The members present voted in favour of appointing Griffin Accountants as the auditors in respect of the Society's 2021 accounts.
  - c. The members present voted to re-elect both John Stott and Tony Guy to the board of directors. The board noted its thanks to John Stott for his service to the Society.
  - d. Michael Bullock stood down and did not stand for re-election. The board placed on record its thanks to Michael Bullock for his service on the board.
5. Guest speaker:

Yvonne Mckinnon gave a presentation about the Way Ahead Project and how the donation from HECE helped them to buy a table tennis table to support the work that they do.

6. Other business:

- a. John Willis asked whether there is a risk to the Society's future business were interest rates to rise. John Stott explained that the loans from Triodos and SASC are fixed rate loans which do not carry interest rate risk.
- b. A member queried whether changes in aviation condensation trails had affected the amount of solar irradiance available to the sites. The board noted that this was an interesting subject but that they were not aware of any definitive research on this topic.
- c. John Willis queried whether HECE had completed any analysis on the business case for cleaning panels. John Stott explained that HECE had just completed a test where one of its three sites was cleaned and compared to another adjacent site which was not cleaned. The analysis has not yet been completed on this test, but early indications look like the improvement in performance is marginal. Tom Cosgrove (Communities for Renewables) explained that the main driver for cleaning the panels is to prevent soiling which could affect the warranty by creating obstructions and hot-spots on the panels.

*Authorised by the Heart of England Community Energy board*