

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting



Held at 8:00pm on 28 April 2022, at the Gregson Centre, Lancaster, and simultaneously via Zoom

10 members were present or attended online, including 3 directors.

Directors: Anne Chapman, Alan Marsden, Caroline Jackson

Other Members: Hugh Kidd, Sandra Gardner, Dawn Groundsell, Chris Coates, Dave Brookes, Steve Dealler, Mark Gill

Apologies: Adrienne Wallman, Gwen Kinloch, Gill Fenna

Anne Chapman chaired the meeting.

Anne Chapman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

Presentation of Accounts

Anne Chapman presented the accounts for 2021. The overall financial position is broadly in line with projections. Insurance costs have not risen as much as feared. There were no questions.

Annual Report

Anne Chapman presented the Directors' report. Our installations have been performing well, with the exception of the solar thermal installation on the Boys and Girls' club. This has continued to underperform. Repairs have been completed and discussions have taken place with the Boys and Girls' club about use of hot water to improve performance from the solar thermal installation.

There was a brief discussion about the need, in our financial model, to return some investment to members each year so as to reduce the total annual interest repayments. Up to now voluntary withdrawals of investment have been sufficient, but if opportunities for new projects which would use some of our capital do not arise and insufficient members ask for return of their investment, it might become necessary in future to invoke our right to pay back a proportion of investment to all members.

Motions

Motion 1. The minutes of the previous AGM (15 April 2021) were approved.

Motion 2, 'to approve the payment of share interest to members at a rate of 4%, and 25% of the total share interest paid as community benefit' was proposed by Steve Dealer and seconded by Caroline Jackson, and carried unanimously.

Motion 3, 'to receive and adopt the Report of the Directors and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2021' was proposed by Alan Marsden and seconded by Dave Brookes, and carried unanimously.

Motion 4, 'to disapply the obligation of the co-operative to appoint auditors pursuant to Section 84 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 so that an audit of the accounts of the Co-operative shall not take place for the Co-operative's year of account ending 31st December 2022' was proposed by Hugh Kidd and seconded by Caroline Jackson, and carried unanimously.

Motion 5, 'to reappoint Caroline Jackson as a director of the Society' was proposed by Anne Chapman and seconded by Dave Brookes, and passed unanimously.

Motion 6, 'to reappoint Alan Marsden as a director of the Society' was proposed by Anne Chapman and seconded by Hugh Kidd, and passed unanimously.

Presentation by Green Rose CIC on the 'Ask Rose' advice service supported by MORE Renewables.

There was a presentation from James Sommerville of Green Rose CIC, beneficiaries of the Community Benefit fund last year. As a community organisation, any surplus they make is reinvested in the local community. In 2021/22 £500 was donated to Morecambe Food Bank. The Ask Rose service provides free advice by phone to anyone wanting to reduce their energy bills and make their home greener, including advice on who might be able to do installations. They also administer LEAP, giving home energy advice and visits to low-income and vulnerable households, and train Energy Ambassadors. This year they have been particularly busy. Green Rose has seen a huge increase in requests for assistance from low-income and vulnerable households, diverting attention from other activities. Nevertheless, Ask Rose, which in 2021/22 has been funded by the MORE community benefit payment, has been rebranded and has received positive feedback from clients. Eight-three residents were supported with advice (62 in the previous year) and 30 Lancashire-based contractors able to provide services were identified. Continually changing government policy on support schemes, with rapid discontinuation and introduction of new schemes, has made providing advice difficult and hampered the take-up of renewable energy and energy-saving measures. Continued funding from MORE would allow Green Rose to support a further 100 clients, and to provide support for clients to benefit from the recently introduced HUG scheme (for low-income and low-rated households) and BUS scheme (for heat-pump installations).

Discussion of use of community benefit fund

A sum of £1447 is currently available for community benefit. The meeting decided to hold this back until next year.

The meeting finished at 9pm.