

# Morecambe Bay Community Renewables Ltd. AGM 2025

Held at 7:30pm on 31 March 2025, at the Gregson Centre, Lancaster

**Present:** Directors – Anne Chapman (chairing), Alan Marsden (minuting); Other members – Dave Brookes, Caroline Jackson, Marie McCusker, Sandra Gardner, Ailsa Gibon

**Apologies:** Gill Fenna, Simon Gershon, Steve Dealler, Steve Wrigley, Gwen Kinlock

## 1. Introductions and welcome

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

## 2. Presentation of the accounts

Anne Chapman presented the accounts for 2024. She drew attention to the lower income than last year on account of less sunshine and malfunction of one of the arrays at Halton co-housing. She explained the other sources of income: co-op support income which comes from work undertaken by Anne Chapman to give advice to other societies, and a grant with respect to an investigation of options for an installation in Yealand. The apparent substantial increase in administrative expenses was largely a result of fees paid to the consultants who undertook the investigation at Yealand, covered by the grant referred to above. There is now a line for expenditure on salaries since Anne Chapman is now an employee of MORE rather than invoicing for her services.

## 3. Annual Report from the directors

Anne presented the Directors' report, drawing out the highlights. An error in the figures pointed out by Marie McCusker in advance of the meeting has already been corrected – the corrected version is on the MORE website.

No grants have been made from the Community Fund this year. The Directors propose that the sum be carried forward to accumulate a sufficient amount for a substantial and meaningful grant next year or the year after. Possible future projects and the state of play with each was outlined: a new housing co-op in Halton, two local charitable groups, and the project concerning Quaker-owned properties at Yealand which has been the subject of the grant-funded investigation referred to above. All of these continue to be under investigation and no decisions have yet been taken to definitely proceed with any of them.

## 4. Motion 1: to approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

Proposed by Marie McCusker, seconded by Sandra Gardner. The motion was carried.

## 5. Motion 2: to approve the payment of share interest to members at a rate of 4%, and 25% of the total share interest to be put into our community benefit fund.

Proposed by Sandra Gardner, seconded by Ailsa Gibson. The motion was carried.

## 6. Motion 3: to receive and adopt the Report of the Directors and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

Proposed by Anne Chapman, seconded by Marie McCusker. The motion was carried.

**7. 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 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.**

Proposed by Marie McCusker, seconded by Ailsa Gibson. The motion was carried.

## **8. Election of directors**

Alan Marsden and Caroline Jackson are existing directors who are standing down in rotation, in accordance with our Rules, and are offering themselves for re-election.

**Motion 5:** to reappoint Alan Marsden and Caroline Jackson as directors of the Society.

A proposal was also made to appoint Ailsa Gibson as a director of the Society.

The motion and additional directorial appointment was proposed by Sandra Gardner, seconded by Dave Brookes. The motion and additional directorial appointment were carried.

Gill Fenna has resigned as a Director. We thank her for all her work and wish her well for the future.

The meeting ended at 8:50 pm.