

MALVERN COMMUNITY ENERGY CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held at Malvern Cube on 28th July 2014 at 8.00pm

Present:

David Armitage
Robin Coates
Sue Edmonds
Brian Harper
John Lambeth
Lynne Lambeth
Mike Munro Turner
Clive Pyne
Sonia Pyne
Robert Reeves
David Robinson
J Roskams
Dinah Sage
Ian Sage
Sally Ferriday Smith
Keith Smith
Bob Tilley

Two others were present for part of the meeting

1. Apologies for absence

Ian Caldwell
Alexandra Pope
Pam McCarthy

2. Audit

A full professional audit is not necessary, but the accounts will need to be examined.
A volunteer examiner is required.

3. Election of two directors

A third of the directors must stand down at the first annual general meeting.
David Armitage is standing down. Robin Coates agreed to stand down, but was willing to be re-elected.

Proposal: Robin Coates should remain a director.
Proposer Bob Tilly, Seconder J Roskams. Accepted unanimously.

J Roskams proposed that Clive Pyne should become a director. Seconded by Robin Coates. Accepted with one abstention.

4. Application of surplus funds

No decision needed as there are none.

5. Appoint the chair of the Board

It was agreed that the chair of the board can be appointed at the next meeting of the Directors.

6. Verbal report on the progress of the installation at Malvern Cube

There are two outstanding items from the extremely long list of tasks.

Pre-approval for SEIS has been granted, but formal approval is not given until a proportion of the funds have been spent.

The share offer went ahead in May as Worcestershire County Council had agreed in principal to allow Malvern Cube to let the roof, with the proviso that work would not be started until the sublease had been signed.

A site visit from WCC in early June highlighted a difference in interpretation of the contract between WCC and Malvern Cube over the provision of a temporary road to improve disabled access, now resolved.

WCC has issued a licence to allow Malvern Cube to sublease the roof. The Trustees of Malvern Cube have signed it and it has been delivered to WCC for the final signature.

The sublease has been signed by the Cube Trustees and the Directors of Malvern Energy Co-op.

Every formal body has caused delays, including the Inland Revenue losing two letters, and the VAT authority needing extra information.

Solar Solutions (now Energy Solutions Malvern) have ordered the panels, and have been very helpful as the installation date keeps being put back.

A firm order has now been placed with Energy Solutions Malvern to start installation in the week beginning 11 August, with commissioning at the end of the week.

Doubts were raised as to whether the County Council really will sign the lease, but generally it is thought that they will, as they drafted the document.

7. Verbal report on possible future roofs

Malvern Community Energy Co-op is looking for the next roof.

Negotiations with Malvern Science Park looked hopeful, but unfortunately they are not in a position to proceed.

MHDC has been approached about suitable roofs – a good one has been identified in Tenbury Wells.

Pam McCarthy is investigating schools, although they could use a scheme run by the County. The council scheme might not apply to academies.

Does anyone know of a large roof, with a twenty year life, which faces south or south west? High energy use within the building is best, as the occupier gains from cheaper electricity, and the Co-op can charge more than it receives from the grid.

When the Cube project is up and running the search for other roofs will be intensified.

Suggestions from the shareholders:

- Libraries (WCC have done some)
- Malvern Spa Hotel
- Eden Church is building a new building which will also act as a community centre.
- Malvern Evangelical Church – new building
- Medical centres (Hospital has solar panels)
- Malvern Vale Community Centre
- Tennis club (probably same substation as Cube so problems with capacity)
- Malvern St James
- Malvern Splash (when its lease has been renewed)
- Elim in West Malvern (post meeting suggestion)

The Co-op has chosen the FiT to be “deemed”, which means that the tariff assumes that 50% of the electricity produced will be exported to the National Grid.

Robin Coates was congratulated and given a round of applause in acknowledgement of his determination in driving the project forward.

8. Miscellaneous

Switching on should be used for publicity.

The Tribe (youth group) should be involved to encourage a feeling of ownership.

The community response to the share offer was heartening. Everyone who applied received some shares. There are 60 shareholders.

Why did people invest? None of those present invested for financial gain alone. Four wanted to support the Cube, about seven to support green energy, and three had mixed motives.

9. Date of next meeting

As in our rules.