**MALVERN COMMUNITY ENERGY CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED**

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

Held virtually via Zoom on 8th June 2021 at 7.30pm

**Present:**

Ian Caldwell
Matthew Chuck
Robin Coates
Mark Gill
Brian Harper
Melanie Jameson
Ginny Lee
David McCann
Mike Munro Turner
John Raine
Dinah Sage
Anna Silver
Bob Tilley

**Apologies for absence** were received from:

Stephen Hart
Nick Martin
Ian Sage

Stephen Hart and Nick Martin had submitted voting forms agreeing with all the proposals.

**Chair's Report**

The sad news of death of Clive Pyne was given

David McCann has agreed to take over as Company Secretary. He was unable to buy shares because of a conflict of interests as installer of the solar panels. This means he cannot become a director, so there is a vacancy

1. **Agree minutes from last meeting**

The minutes of the AGM held on 01st June 2020 were unanimously agreed, and will be signed electronically as an accurate record.

- **Matters arising**
  Ian is providing login details for the monitoring system on request.
  There have been no problems since Brian and Robin lifted the cables on the roof so they no longer get waterlogged.
  Robin read the meters during Covid. Anna will be briefed now the Cube is open again.

2. **Audit**

In accordance with Section 84 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, a resolution not to undertake a full professional audit of the co-operative for the year was adopted unanimously. Proposer Bob Tilley, seconder John Raine

Ian sends details of transactions to Sharenergy, who produce the accounts.

3. **To receive and adopt the Report of the Directors and the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020**

The Report of the Directors and the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 were unanimously adopted. Proposer Brian Harper, seconder Ginny Lee.

There were no queries.

Ian's notes explained that the Cube is currently using less electricity. During the pandemic, the directors decided not to charge as the Cube was closed.

The electrician charged £400.

4. **To approve the repayment of £14 for each block of share capital (currently £200**

Repayment of capital should remain at £14 per block until near the end of the scheme.

**Proposal: To approve the repayment o £8 for each £200 of share capital.**

**Proposer: Melanie Jameson, Seconder John Raine, unanimously approved.**

5. **Proposal: To approve the payment of £9 interest for each block (currently £200) of share capital**

**Proposer: Anna Silver, Seconder Mike Munro Turner, unanimously approved.**

All email votes received agreed with all the proposals

6. **To re-elect Ian Caldwell as a Director of the Co-op**

A third of the directors must stand down at the AGM

**Proposal: To re-elect Ian Caldwell as a Director of the Co-op**
**Proposer: Bob Tilley, Seconder John Raine, unanimously agreed, with a vote of thanks for his work as Treasurer**

7. **To re-elect Brian Harper as a Director of the Co-op**

**Proposal: To re-elect Brian Harper as a Director of the Co-op.**

**Proposer: Anna Silver, Seconder John Raine, unanimously agreed**.

8. **Anna will describe her role as a Director**

Anna put someone forward and ended up being appointed.

For the first couple of years, she attended meetings without understanding what was said. She gradually came to understand the terminology and has been given the tasks of checking the online system and reading the meters.

The position is not onerous, with about two meetings a year plus the AGM. Ian and Robin do an enormous amount, and Dinah takes the minutes.

No particular expertise is needed, but another pair of eyes and ears would be valuable. The new director would bring their own experience and learn from the other directors, gradually building up confidence and knowledge to help Robin and Ian.

**Action: Ian keep reminding members that there is a vacancy**

State of play on Community Energy

To address the difficulties faced by small co-ops, Sharenergy has created a Big Solar Co-op so that expertise and costs can be shared. This will enable co-ops to offer sensible returns now that new FiTs have been abolished

The EIS tax rebate has been arbitrarily removed from community energy schemes, though it remains for other schemes. There is a campaign to persuade the government to be kinder to community energy.

MCEC is signed up to various newsletters.

There was difficulty in finding suitable rooves, even with FiTs. Now rooves have to belong to an organisation that can itself use the electricity produced during the day. A firm compares the cost of electricity from a co-op with the wholesale, not the retail price from the Grid. There is no payment for surplus electricity exported to the National Grid.

Even with FiTs, it was difficult to find suitable rooves.

Possible lines of enquiry

Science park
Worth approaching again, but success is unlikely. Although a lot of electricity is consumed during daylight hours (computers, fridges, biotech labs), it is the tenants who pay, so there is no great incentive for the owners to provide cheap electricity.

Is there any leverage from MHDC's Destination Zero? The buildings are fairly environmentally friendly, which suggests that the owners would have included solar panels themselves, rather than offering use of their rooves.

A complicated syndicate runs it. The council does have some shares.

Manor Park
Manor Park was not interested a few years ago, but is now trying to raise funds to put solar panels on the bowls roof.
Although east/west rooves can be used, some rooves at Manor Park face north and many are surrounded by trees.
It would make more sense for them to fund their own solar panels, as MCEC would have to charge for administration.

Prospect view
The building is probably owned by a private organisation.

The Chase and Dysons
The Chase did have an active environment group which might be worth approaching. However, not only is a suitable roof needed, but all the electricity needs to be used on site, to be economically viable

Malvern Hills College
If this is saved, it might be receptive.

Malvern Vale School
Malvern Vale is part of the Mercian Education Trust. Solar panels might be economic if the charge for the electricity is less than the wholesale price.

**Action Speak to the head of Malvern Vale John Raine**

Maybe a better approach would be for MCEC to encourage owners to put up solar panels themselves.

If a new roof was found, MCEC would use the Big Solar Co-op.

Houses in Germany are usually better suited to solar power, being aligned North-South rather than East-West as in England.

**Possible actions**
**Approach the Science Park again - Robin Coates**
**Approach The Chase? Anna Silver?**

**9. Other business**

Brian Harper to give an introduction to the thermal imaging franchise run by the recently launched First Thermal Ltd

Brian has long been interesting in using thermal imaging to show where heating leaks from houses. Many years ago, he set up a local scheme called Energy Tracers under the auspices of Transition Malvern Hills.

Now at last there is agreement that the earth is warming, and that energy use must be reduced now. 71% of homes in Britain are owner-occupied. Thermal imaging shows where the problems lie, and advice is given on how to fix them.

The first thermal imaging was very expensive. Brian has designed a kit for under £100, to be operated by trusted community groups. He invented the blower door concept in 2010. After a survey, the homeowner was provided with an energy pack to encourage behaviour change. Feedback a year later showed the 90% had acted. He formed Energy Tracers. The local council was not interested, but CHEESE in Bristol took up the idea, and when it became a CIC, Brian joined the board.
Fuel poverty is a problem in Bristol. A thermal camera is plugged in to an iphone, using unique software to download the results onto a USB stick. This is left with the householder, who is lent an energy-saving pack. The system shows drafts, and the ineffective dot-and-dab installation of insulation panels. The feedback shows about 75% surveyed took action. The scheme won the Low Cost Community Energy Award in 2018.

There is a CPD accredited training course.

Just before Covid, a franchising scheme was being set up to enable organisations, especially NGOs to participate. Coincidentally, a bid for funding was won in October 2020.

First Thermal Limited is about to be launched as a benefits corporation which can have shareholders. Brian is hoping that different energy group in Worcester will take out franchises, and recruit Energy Tracers for the whole county.

The set-up costs are low. The training is free and equipment is loaned. Surveys would cost under £200. With the backing of the council in due course some subsidised or free surveys could be offered.

The aim is to provide commercially sustainable jobs. About 100 energy tracers are needed, each working in their own area.

Could MCEC come on board?

There is already a scheme operating in London.
**Possible action**
**Bob expressed an interest in learning more and maybe getting involved.**

Contacts in Herefordshire are hoping to make a start in the summer, with a view to being operational by the winter.

Ian Caldwell asked what can be mentioned at a forthcoming event at Helens. He could mention the project is coming together. Little volunteer effort will be needed. Tracers will be automatically matched to householders.

John Raine said that Malvern Hills District Council will be keen, as the scheme fits in so well with t Destination Zero.

Is the Cube up and running?

After being shut since November, it started to gradually reopen in early April. This is the first week all the staff have been back. Lack of confidence has led to a slow start, but numbers should increase over the summer and U3A is probably coming back in September.

Will it be reasonable to start charging the Cube for electricity again in the autumn?

Matthew Chuck (Treasurer of Malvern Cube) said the Malvern Cube has done quite well out of government schemes, there is no reason why it shouldn't be charged.

The normal meter reading will be taken at the end of this month, and the first bill will be sent to the Cube in September.

Members were thanked for attending, and Robin was thanked for chairing and Anna for hosting.

**10. Date of next meeting**

The next AGM will take place in May - in person.

Signed …….

Date ……