



Minutes of the Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy 2024 AGM held over Zoom at 2pm on Wednesday 18th September 2024.

Prior to the meeting, the Directors met and declared the meeting quorate based on the number of members in the 'waiting room'. In total, there were 21 participants.

Charlie Forrester (CfR) was the meeting 'host'.

Please refer to the separate slide deck for details on agenda items, which can be found on WWCE's website: <https://wwce.org/resources/>

1 Welcome & Introduction (Julian Barlow)

The Chair, Julian Barlow opened the meeting by welcoming everybody to the virtual meeting. Members were advised that they were muted and to please ask questions and communicate through the chat function.

Julian then ran through the meeting agenda and introduced the various presenters who would contribute to the meeting and provided an update on the Society's aims and objectives.

Lastly, Julian provided an update on the Silverwood School project and share offer, which went live on Friday 13th September with an exclusivity period for WWCE and WWT members of 2 weeks. A short video was then shown further detailing the Silverwood School share offer.

2 Technical Performance of Solar Farms (Tom Cosgrove from CfR)

Tom talked through the slides on the technical performance of the sites, noting that it was a good year (April 2023 – March 2024) across the portfolio in general with Chelworth exceeding its generation projection by 1% and Braydon by 4%. The rooftop sites performed under their respective generation projection but this was explained by tree shading which is now being managed by WWT. There will always be some shading losses for the rooftop arrays but careful management of the surrounding trees will maximise performance whilst preserving the local ecosystem.

3 Land Management (Rob Gillies)

Rob provided a detailed update on land management and ecological work being implemented at the Chelworth site, outlining the review of previous work to date, including a recent change in grass management. Rob presented an overview of WWCE's objectives for the site and described the benefits that these recent changes are already starting to yield such as an increase in species including; ladies' bedstraw, bird's foot trefoil, red clover, and oxeye daisy.



Rob then ran through the future improvements WWCE are looking at potentially implementing on each site to increase biodiversity.

4 Community Fund (Jon Bateman)

Jon provided an overview of the Community Fund and the starting budget for the 2023-24 year and spoke about interest being stimulated across the county due to effective marketing and promotion of the Community Fund.

Jon then ran through the projects funded in 2023-24 and since inception, shown on two maps, progressing to outlining the recommendation for next year's donation from WWCE and finally highlighting that there is still a WWCE member vacancy to join the Panel.

5 Community Outreach (Julian Barlow)

Julian talked through the press outreach completed in relation to the Keeping Warm This Winter project including the project being shortlisted for a Community Energy England Award in the Fuel Poverty Action category and various mentions in local and regional media.

Julian then notified members that the WWCE website has been completely overhauled with a modern new design and content which better reflects the aims and ethos of the Society and encouraged members to visit the new website.

6 Finance (Tom Cosgrove)

Tom presented the high level financial results for the year ending 31st March 2024, profit before tax was £275k which is a significant uplift from the previous financial year (£7k loss), due to high power purchase agreements locked in during high energy prices.

Tom then ran through the future financial projections which are positive due to short term increases in power prices and the Feed-in-Tariff.

7 Future Projects (Jess Thimbleby)

Jess outlined her role as Carbon Reduction Champion, jointly shared between Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and WWCE.

Jess then talked about the Keeping Warm This Winter project for 2023/24, its second year, including its objectives, methods, locations and the results of the latest iteration of the program which included supporting over 350 people via 18 energy advice cafes.

8 Summary and Future Strategy (Julian Barlow & Tom Cosgrove)

Julian provided a summary of the information presented so far covering the Community Fund, Keeping Warm This Winter, outreach to local MPs, biodiversity and finances.



Tom then ran through the future prospects. Firstly, detailing the solar soft loans subsidised investment model, highlighting that repayment would be based on a share of the actual cost savings of the recipient organisation each year and that repaid funds would be re-circulated into WWCE's activities to achieve more carbon reductions and wildlife improvements in Wiltshire.

And secondly, briefly outlined the Silverwood School project as an addition to the Chair's update earlier in the meeting.

9 Proposals and Resolutions (Julian Barlow and Tom Cosgrove)

Julian introduced the formal business section of the meeting and then passed over to Tom who ran through the proposed amendment to Rule 22.

Julian then introduced and listed the proposals and resolutions to be voted on and notified members that Lesley Bennett has decided to resign from the WWCE board after 10 years of service. Julian thanked Lesley for her significant stewardship of WWCE as previous chair and a director and wished her well for the future.

A poll was shared through which members could vote on the following proposals:

- 1) Proposal to pay members 7% interest this year (result: Approved)
- 2) Proposal to donate £40k to the Community Fund (result: Approved)
- 3) Proposal to amend rule 22 (result: Approved)
- 4) Proposal to re-elect Jon Bateman to the Board as he retires on rotation (result: Approved)

The table below shows the proxy vote results

Resolution	Approve	Disapprove	Skipped
1	30	0	0
2	28	0	2
3	27	0	3
4	28	0	2

10 AOB (Julian Barlow)

With no further questions or matters arising, the meeting closed at 3.00pm.

No questions were asked during the course of the meeting in the chat function.