Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy

LESS CARBON, MORE WILDLIFE

Minutes of the Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy 2026 AGM held in person in the Wessex Room, Devizes Corn Exchange at 2pm on Wednesday 30th September 2026.

At 2pm, the meeting was adjourned as it was not quorate with 14 members present and 21 members required to be present for a quorum.

In accordance with the society's rules the meeting was adjourned for 30 minutes, with the members present after 30 minutes constituting a quorum.

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 meeting. Members were asked to please ask questions at the end of each section.

Julian ran through the meeting agenda and introduced the various presenters who would contribute to the meeting and provided an update on the Society's key achievements from 2025/26.

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 2025 – March 2026) across the portfolio in general with Chelworth, Braydon and the rooftop sites exceeding their generation projection by 8%, 12% and 6% respectively. Silverwood came in just under projections by 1%.

Overall, the group was 10.49% above the long-term projection for the year with 6,649 MWh of green electricity generated.

3 Land Management (Rob Gillies)

Rob provided a detailed update on land management and ecological work being implemented at the sites including new hedging at Chelworth to replace prior lost habitat and encourage Brown Hairstreak egg laying. At Braydon the areas of wildflowers sown in Autumn 2025 were maintained and species monitoring was completed which showed promising results with significant pollinator numbers and presence of several endangered and at-risk bird and bat species.

Rob also provided an update on the Lower Moor Farm project, which is making good progress including environmental reports evidencing good opportunities to deliver interventions to improved habitat quality and climate resilience which are now in the process of being implemented.

4 Community Fund (Jon Bateman)

Jon provided an overview of the Community Fund with a further six projects receiving funding in the year to 31st March 2026 bringing the total number of active and ongoing projects to fourteen. A high-level outline of how the fund is administered and managed was provided with thanks given to Emma Sambrook who retired last year and Richard Death and Harriet James who have recently joined the panel.

Jon then ran through the projects that were awarded funding in the 2025/26 financial year which broadly fell into two main categories in line with the group's aim of 'More Wildlife, Less Carbon'. A number of highly ranked community projects were also supported.

Harriet James talked through her experience with being involved in the Warminster Toad Patrol project and Sustainable Warminster Committee, both of which were recipients of funding from the WWCE community find for environmental projects.

5 Community Outreach (Julian Barlow)

Julian talked through the community outreach completed in relation to the business across broadcast, print and social media. This included an ITV News interview at the Braydon site, updates on the fourth year of the Keeping Warm This Winter project, bi-annual newsletters and regular updates on the WWCE website and social media channels.

Jess then proceeded to run through her role as Carbon Reduction Champion, a role shared between WWCE and Wiltshire Wildlife Trust (WWT), and the objectives of the Keeping Warm This Winter project and its impact in 2025/26 and over the life of the project which spans back four winters.

6 Finance (Tom Cosgrove)

Tom presented the high-level financial results for the year ending 31st March 2026. Profit before tax was £755k, similar with the previous financial year (£768k), due to high prices secured for exported electricity which was locked in during the 2021 energy crisis.

Tom then ran through the future financial projections which are positive. Surpluses of c.£1.2m generated in the short term to further the group's objective of less carbon, more wildlife in Wiltshire.

7 Future Strategy (Julian Barlow)

Julian then ran through the aims and objectives of the society for 2026/27 which included, maintaining maximum return rates for investors and the community fund, work with Silverwood School to facilitate delivery of its first community fund-backed beehive project, delivery of second instalment of grant to WWT to support the Lower Moor Farm project, continue to maximise the impact and develop the Keeping Warm This Winter project, launch new strategic fund in Wiltshire with corresponding evaluation framework and ultimately continue with the mission of promoting delivery of the right solar, in the right place, for the right reasons.

8 Member Share Withdrawal Rule Amendment Update (Tom Cosgrove)

Tom provided an update on the member share withdrawal rule amendment (Rule 22). An agreed position was reached with the FCA on the proposed amendment in January 2026 with some minor tweaks made to the original proposed amendment approved by members at the 2024 AGM.

A recap was also provided on what the rule amendment seeks to do and on what. Firstly, Rule 22 governs withdrawal of member share capital. WWCE is looking is change Rule 22 as the group's revenues are received through generation of electricity by fixed life assets. If these assets reach end of life and member capital is not repaid the society will have no way of returning the capital. COOPs UK Community Shares Handbook states that a Society has a responsibility to manage its capital prudently, making provision for withdrawals.

A member queried whether part iv of Rule 22 was clear enough that it only relates to applications for withdrawal of all of a member's share capital. It was agreed that the wording would be adjusted to make this clear before submission.

9 Formal AGM business (Julian Barlow)

Julian introduced the formal business section of the meeting noting the proposed member interest payments of 7% for Braydon and Chelworth shareholders and 5.5% for Silverwood Shareholders for the year to 31st March 2026, to be paid by end of November 2026. And a £40,000 contribution to the community fund.

Julian then introduced the proposals and resolutions to be voted on in-person, please find these listed below with the corresponding result.

1) Amendment to rule 22 (result: Approved)

2) Proposal to re-elect Sylvia Wyatt to the Board as directors retires on rotation (result: Approved)

3) Proposal to re-elect Lucy Normington to the Board as directors retires on rotation (result: Approved)

4) Proposal to re-elect Rob Gillies to the Board as directors retires on rotation (result: Approved)

All proposals and resolutions were approved unanimously. The table below sets out the proposer and seconder for each resolution:

Resolution	Proposer	Seconder
1	Michael Davies	Duncan Young
2	Jon Bateman	Richard Death
3	Rob Gillies	Sylvia Wyatt
4	Tim Gilson	Jon Bateman

10 AOB (Julian Barlow)

With no further questions or matters arising, the meeting closed at 3.15pm.

Questions arising during the course of the meeting

Q. Have you considered the addition of battery storage to the existing sites to boost revenue and low carbon technology implementation?

A. (Tom Cosgrove) – We note that battery storage projects being installed currently are large scale and do not think that co-located batteries at a relatively small scale will be financially viable. This is supported by the fact that we are aware that two co-located battery storage facilities are being decommissioned due to financial viability concerns.

Q. Are you able to make the results of the ecological monitoring surveys completed at the sites available to the public?

A. (Rob Gillies) – This is something we can definitely look into doing if it would be of interest, possibly in the next annual report or on the WWCE website. The WWCE board will discuss this at the next board meeting and come to a decision.

Q. Would you consider the addition of beehives at the sites?

A. (Rob Gillies/Julian Barlow) – There are already beehives at the Chelworth site which were part of a trial of solar heated beehives. The main issue preventing the addition of beehives to the other sites and continued use at Chelworth is access and operational constraints and finding a beekeeper. However, please note the Silverwood beehive

project funded via the Silverwood community fund which will commence in due course. Additionally, a concern was raised from a member regarding bees becoming the dominant pollinators which is another reason why WWCE has not expanded the idea of further beehives at the sites.

Q. Would you consider surveying the membership across a broad range of items related to the business to understand member's position and thoughts? Potentially to guide future direction and decision making.

A. (Julian Barlow) – Good idea. Yes, we would likely be interested in doing something like this in future. The WWCE board will discuss this at the next board meeting and come to a decision.

Q. Does the wording in limb iv ("*in respect of applications for withdrawal that are approved in full…*") of the proposed new Rule 22 risk the possibility of a member requesting withdrawal of a portion of their shareholding, and it being approved, having their membership in the society being terminated?

A. (Tom Cosgrove) – Appreciate that the wording is slightly ambiguous here, we will tweak this wording to make it clear that limb iv only applies to applications for withdrawal of all of a member's capital.

Q. Do the Chelworth and Braydon site have time limited planning permissions?

A. (Tom Cosgrove) – We'll check this. Following review, both sites have 25-year planning permission which expire 16th April 2038 for Chelworth and 29th October 2038 for Braydon.