

Minutes for 2020 Annual General Meeting
Orchard Community Energy Limited
Online via Zoom on Thursday 17th September 2020 at 7pm

In attendance

Directors

Penny Shepherd (Chair)

Francis Mahon

Ian Smith

Julie Salmon

Janet Hill

Patti Whaley (co-opted)

In addition 6 further members and guests including Stephen Perez and Jackson Fraser-Hague from Medway Plus, Carey Philpott from Sateda and Jacqui Hunt and Ian from Abbey Physic Community Garden

Welcome and introductions

Peter Gladdish stepped down from the Board during the year. Penny thanked him for his contribution during his time as a director.

Orchard continues to work with our three key partners who are Bright Renewables, PSH and Triodos. Bright was created in 2018 and we co-own them along with other community benefit societies.

Achievements in 2019-20 and Future priorities

The Board has welcomed two new directors Janet Hill and Patti Whaley who both live in Swale.

Penny and Ian have supported the creation of Kent Community Energy (“KCE”) which owns the sister solar array at the site. There will be a share offer next spring to bring KCE into community ownership. OCE has helped disburse some of their community fund, with a focus on help to groups disadvantaged by Covid 19.

The third achievement is responding to Covid-19 to ensure continued operations, making sure that Bright and PSH have been Covid compliant.

Future priorities

We will be considering refinancing opportunities, bearing in the mind the current historically low interest rates.

We are still hoping to complete a commercial rooftop development on the roof of Cook foods, which has unfortunately been delayed by Brexit and then Covid-19.

Finally, we recognise that we need to become more ‘local’ but this will only happen slowly over time.

Resolutions

- To approve the draft minutes of the 2019 AGM

Proposed: Mark Scott

Seconded: Jan Scott

All other members in attendance agreed

- To accept the Orchard Community Energy audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2020

Proposed: Ian Smith

Seconded: Jan Scott

All other members in attendance agreed

- To delegate to the directors the authority to appoint auditors and to fix their remuneration

Proposed: Julie Salmon

Seconded: Ian Smith

All other members in attendance agreed

- To approve the recommendation of the directors that 7% pa interest should be paid to shareholders for the year to 31 March 2020

Proposed: Francis Mahon

Seconded: Julie Salmon

All other members in attendance agreed

- To approve the criteria for applications to the Community Fund including a small modification whereby applications must satisfy at least one environmental and one social requirement

Proposed: Jan Scott

Seconded: Janet Hill

All other members in attendance agreed

- To approve the recommendation of the directors on the community fund disbursement for projects starting in 2022.

Proposed: Jan Scott

Seconded: Janet Hill

All other members in attendance agreed

- To elect Janet Hill as a director

Proposed: Francis Mahon

Seconded: Julie Salmon

All other members in attendance agreed

- To re-elect Julie Salmon as a director

Proposed: Ian Smith

Seconded: Janet Hill

All other members in attendance agreed

- To re-elect Penny Shepherd as a director

Proposed: Julie Salmon

Seconded: Janet Hill

All other members in attendance agreed

Penny thanked everyone for attending

The meeting ended at 21.00