

Minutes for 2021 Annual General Meeting
Orchard Community Energy Limited
Online via Zoom on Thursday 23rd September 2021 at 7pm

In attendance

Directors

Penny Shepherd (Chair)
Francis Mahon
Ian Smith
Julie Salmon
Janet Hill
Nick Vickers

In addition to 11 members, visitors included Kian Davis from Slough Fort and Simon Jeffreys from Wild Spaces Fund who gave presentations on work done using grants given by Orchard.

Welcome and introductions

Orchard continues to work with our three key partners who are Bright Renewables, PSH and Triodos. Neville Registrars continue as our share and bond registrars.

Achievements in 2020-21

Orchard installed its first rooftop array on Cook Foods kitchen in Sittingbourne, installed by SAS energy systems and maintained by The Ethical Renewable Company.

£10,000 was distributed to local charities Slough Fort, Wild Spaces Fund and Sateda.

Orchard has relaunched a new and improved website which will be easier to maintain in the future.

The final achievement is that we launched our 2021 share offer which was offered to bond holders in July and was opened to new shareholders in August 2021.

Forced labour in solar industry supply chains

In response to the report 'In Broad Daylight' which was issued by Sheffield Hallam University about forced labour in the solar industry, Orchard and Bright Renewables have signed a statement to the effect that we condemn and oppose forced labour, and support the development of a traceability protocol.

Resolutions

The following resolutions were laid before the meeting, proposed by the directors.

1. To approve the draft minutes of the 2020 AGM
2. To approve the draft minutes of the April 2021 General Meeting
3. To withdraw the partial amendment to the rules approved at the April 2021 General Meeting
4. To accept the Orchard Community Energy audited accounts for the year ending 31 March 2021
5. To delegate to the directors the authority to appoint auditors and to fix their remuneration
6. To approve the recommendation of the directors on the payment of member interest for the period to 31 Mar 2021. The directors recommended that 5% member interest should be paid for the year to 31 Mar 2021 on shares issued under the 2015 share offer document
7. To approve the recommendation of the directors that there should be no change to the criteria for applications to the community fund for projects starting in 2023

8. To approve the recommendation of the directors that a £10,000 community fund should be disbursed for projects starting in 2023
9. To elect Patricia Whaley as a director
10. To re-elect Francis Mahon as a director
11. To re-elect Ian Smith as a director

All the resolutions were approved by members in attendance. No one voted against or abstained.

Penny thanked everyone for attending

The meeting ended at 20.45