



Southill Community Energy
The Pump House, Coton Hill
Shrewsbury SY1 2DP

2nd March 2021

Dear Members,

You will have already received the notification for this year's Annual General Meeting. The AGM will start at 7.30pm on Wednesday 17th March using the Zoom video-conferencing tool.

Please use this link to Register in advance for the meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJltfuGgqjOpHd0jK-7XBdkVGB5-qEnvRReb>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Please find below and enclosed with this letter the formal papers for the AGM.

If you are unable to attend, please use the proxy form and return by email to agms@shareenergy.coop or Southill Community Energy, c/o Shareenergy, The Pump House, Shrewsbury, SY1 2DP by 5pm on Monday 15th March 2021 to ensure your vote can be included.

We hope to see you at the AGM.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Hallé', is positioned below the 'Yours sincerely' text.

Jon Hallé

Secretary

On Behalf of the Board

Encs:

AGM Notice & Director biographies; Chairs' Report; 2020 AGM Minutes

Financial statements to September 2020; AGM Proxy Voting Form 2021

Society Registration No. 7242

SOUTHILL COMMUNITY ENERGY LIMITED

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TO BE HELD AT 7:30PM ON 17 MARCH 2021

NOTICE is given that the Annual General Meeting of Members will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 17th March 2021 using the Zoom video-conferencing tool, for the following purposes:

AGENDA

- A. Welcome and introductions
- B. Declarations of Interest
- C. Reports from Directors
- D. Questions and Answers to Directors
- E. Formal business of AGM
 - 1. To agree the minutes from the last meeting
 - 2. To receive and adopt the Report of the Directors, the Annual Accounts and the Auditor's report for the year ended 30th September 2020
 - 3. To approve a payment of share interest to Members at a rate of 5% of retained capital for the year ended 30th September 2020
 - 4. To re- elect Tim Crisp as a Director of the Society
 - 5. To re-elect Tom Johnstone as a Director of the Society
 - 6. To re-appoint Third Sector Accountancy as Auditors for this year
 - 7. Any Other Business

By order of the Board

Jon Hallé

Secretary

2nd March 2021

Registered Office:

The Pump House

Coton Hill

Shrewsbury, SY1 2DP

SOUTHILL COMMUNITY ENERGY LIMITED

REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS

Another good year

Unlike last year, the sun is not shining on the UK, and the wind is not blowing. These periods of high pressure are a challenge to the objective of zero carbon generation when the grid needs turn to higher carbon fuels like gas, or rely on nuclear.

Nevertheless, over the whole of 2020, UK low carbon electricity hit record highs. Fossil fuel production fell to an all-time low of 42%, whilst at the same time low-carbon electricity generation rose to a record high of 57.5%. That's according to official BEIS figures, which suggest wind, solar and bio-energy recorded increases ranging between 5% and 20%. The report also suggests primary energy consumption across the UK on a fuel input basis declined by 11% in the last quarter of 2020.

In the four years from first generation in November 2016, Southill has generated a total of 18,227 MWh, and saved 10,280 tonnes of CO₂. At a time of climate emergency, and given the climate emergency declaration made by Charlbury Town Council in November 2019, Southill is a meaningful contribution to the changes that we need to see.

Financial performance

Our solar array had its best ever year of output in 2020. We produced 4,774 MWh of electricity which is 14% above our projected output and 5% above our average annual output to date. Although there have been drops in the value of both the electricity we export and the Renewable Obligation Certificates we create, our overall surplus has remained healthy at £81,693.

The board is therefore recommending to members that 5% interest be paid. This level of surplus also means that the maximum 'Section 106' payments related to the planning consent are triggered, with £15,000 payable to the Cotswolds Conservation Board, and a community benefit pot of £30,000 available for distribution to environmental projects via Sustainable Charlbury.

Repayments to our bondholders were made in full and as projected.

Distribution of community benefit

Sustainable Charlbury has now approved the first payments from our community fund. They are:

- £5,000 to Westmill Sustainable Energy Trust (WeSET), towards their new educational centre, with a further £5,000 promised for 2021/2 should it be required
- £5,000 to The Kitchen Garden People, towards the purchase of two new poly-tunnels
- £2,600 to the Nature stream of the town council's Environment Working Group towards the creation of carbon maps for a range of land use types

We also started working with Charlbury Bowls Club to make their existing building and new extension zero carbon.

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If you live locally and have a good idea for a project to combat climate change please consider applying to the grants via Sustainable Charlbury's website at www.sustainablecharlbury.org

Refinancing

We're happy to announce that our refinancing is now complete. West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) has provided us with a single loan to replace the three loans we previously had from Close Brothers, The Phone Co-op and WODC themselves. The new loan is at a substantially lower rate of interest than any of the previous loans, reducing our annual interest payments by around a quarter.

Power purchase agreement

During the year we were offered the chance to leave our contract with Co-op Energy early. We carried out a tender exercise to seek the best value for the society, considering offers from several providers. The winners were EDF with whom we have signed a new 1-year power purchase agreement. Although wholesale prices remain low, this agreement gives us a better price than was offered by our previous off-taker, and a higher proportion of the value of our Renewable Obligation Certificates.

Projections

The solar farm continues to perform very well, exceeding the projected outcomes every year since it was installed. However, wholesale electricity prices remain low, as do the value of Renewable Obligation Certificates, so this is likely to mean somewhat lower income over the next few years.

There will also be an accounting adjustment because we paid back our Close Brothers loan early – meaning that the upfront loan fees which were due to be spread over the remaining years of the loan will all appear as an expense in our next accounts. So be prepared for our reported surplus to be lower next year even though our overall financials are in good shape.

And the field grew greener....

Work on improving biodiversity on site continued according to plan, under the management of Guy Parker of [Wychwood Biodiversity](#) and Anne Miller who is organising community volunteers to keep down the weeds.

Deer are wildlife too and very partial to new tree growth. So several work parties were organised over the winter months (Covid restrictions allowing) to install much better tree guards with wooden posts and wire. It won't be too long hopefully before we see some fruit.

We also received grants from Coop Energy and the Cotswold Conservation Board which we will use to install fixed sheep fencing and a dew pond. Next year should see pictures of sheep grazing various parts of the field.

Website update

A reminder to members that our website now gives access to [real-time generation](#) and CO2 savings data.

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And finally

[Matt Kopinski](#), local sculptor, carved this fantastic stone plaque to commemorate the community's commitment to green energy and improved biodiversity. The installation will be the focus of an event to publicise WODC's contribution to Southill's ongoing success just as soon as that is allowed.



Southill Community Energy would like to thank our ongoing partners:

- Charlbury and surrounding community for all the thousands of volunteer hours put in to help make this vision for a community solar farm a reality.
- [Wychwood Biodiversity](#) for their fantastic landscape management and biodiversity plans for the whole site
- [Sharenergy](#) for their efficient management of the community benefit society
- [GreenCat](#) for their asset management
- [Solarcentury](#) for its ongoing operation and maintenance services

and lastly, but by no means least, you, our members, for the overwhelming support and faith you showed in us and our project by committing your money to help make this happen.

Many thanks

The Directors of Southill Community Energy Limited

SOUTHILL COMMUNITY ENERGY LIMITED

NOMINATIONS TO THE BOARD

The Rules of the Society state that there must be a minimum of three Board Members. There is no maximum. The Rules require one third of the Board Members to retire each year in rotation (they may seek re-election if they wish). Tim Crisp and Tom Johnstone will be stepping down and will stand for re-election. No other Members will be standing for election this year.

Retiring Directors Seeking Re-election

Tim Crisp, Director

Tim has been a Director of Sustainable Charlbury since 2008, brought forward the idea of a community solar farm and has been actively involved throughout its development. He is a pragmatic and highly experienced project manager with an impressive track record leading projects in both the commercial and community sectors. Having spent 30 years working in the advertising and printing industry, Tim is a qualified workplace mediator and worked for the Low Carbon Hub developing solar PV schemes for businesses that deliver benefits to local communities. Tim is a Director of Charlbury and Overseas Projects, a fund-raising charity supporting both local and overseas organisations delivering projects that support their own communities.

Tom Johnstone, Director

Tom Johnstone is a CIMA qualified accountant with over 35 years' experience working in industry in various different sectors. Over that time, he has been able to gain a wide range of accountancy experience from day to day running of business, acquisitions and disposals, financing and refinancing of business. Though not having any direct experience in renewable energy, Tom is a member of Southill Community Energy and has a personal interest in solar energy. Tom became involved in the project and was nominated as a director in September of 2016. Tom has found that the skills gained in the commercial world have transferred across into the renewable energy sector and should continue to do so as the project develops.

SOUTHILL COMMUNITY ENERGY LIMITED

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON 5 MARCH 2020

The Annual General Meeting of members was held on Thursday 5th March 2020 at 19:45 at The Memorial Hall, Brown's Lane, Charlbury, OX7 3QW.

Members Attending: Brigid Avison, Chris Barras, Edward Beausire, Hugh Belshaw, Joan Belshaw, Paul Betteridge, Malcolm Blackmore, Liz Blount, Christine Briner, Paul Briner, Kathleen Broughton, Richard Broughton, Susan Buine, David Cannell, Jennifer Chambers, Marion Coates, Roy Coates, Dawn Colvin, Tim Crisp, Marcus Davies, Andrew Foster, Hugh Goyder, Mark Gregory, Geoffrey Griffiths, Tony Hirstenstein, Tom Johnstone, Brian Jones, Peter Kenrick, Matthew Kopinski, Anne Miller, Toby Morris, Barbara Muritu, Declan O'Hara, Daniel Raymond-Barker, Liz Reason, Rosalind Scott, Roy Scott, Richard Slark, Janet Sly, Hilary Stacey, Geoffrey Strachan, Christopher Tatton, Anne-Marie Taylor, Deborah Trift, Lawrence Watson.

Attendance was **43**. 21 proxy voting forms were received. The quorum is 37 and **the meeting was therefore quorate.**

Other attendees: Toby Morris, John Jacques, Judy Bod, Christine Beausire, Tom Worsley, Guy Parker

Apologies were received from: Marion Ackrill, Kate Andrews, Stephen Andrews, Alan Barlow, Naomi Bowen, Richard Brunning, Elaine Burton, Geoffrey Castle, Sarah Castle, Kay Colyer, Mary Cross, James Dickens, Duncan Enright, Liz Forbes, Matthew Greenfield, Michael Harper, Tom Johnstone, David Jordan, Susanna Jordan, Celia Kerslake, Arthur Kincaid, Heather Leonard, Kathrin Luddecke, Mark Luntley, Paul Marsh, Emily Parker, Helen Pearson, Christopher Phiniefs, Sue Richards, Jan Seed, Valerie Stephenson, Miranda Wilson, Harriet Kopinska, Irene Crisp, Roger Venthen, Elisabeth Venthen, Charles Ward, Jenifer Wates, Peter Watson, Miranda Wilson, Patricia Wright

Motion	Proposer	Seconded	Motion Carried
1. To agree the minutes from the last meeting	Roy Coates	Kathleen Broughton	Y
2. To receive and adopt the Report of the Directors, the Annual Accounts and the Auditor's report for the year ended 30th September 2019	Hugh Belshaw	Hugh Goyder	Y
3. To make a share interest payment to members of 5%	Geoffrey Griffiths	Dawn Colvin	Y
4. To re-elect Liz Reason as a Director of the Society	Jenny Chambers	Brigid Avison	Y
5. To re-elect Richard Slark as a Director of the Society	Deborah Trift	Anne Miller	Y
6. To re-appoint Third Sector Accountancy as Auditors for this year	Brigid Avison	Ted Beausire	Y

No other business was brought forward.

By order of the Board,



Jon Halle, Secretary

5th March 2020