

Nadder Community Energy

Draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Nadder Community Energy

Thursday 19th September 2024 at 6.30pm

at the Victoria Hall, Tisbury

Present: Alan Maryon-Davis (AMD) (Chair), Sue Reed (SR) (Secretary), Maggie Paul (MP) (Director), Rosie Buck (RB) (Director), Gustavo Montes de Oca (GM) (Director), Peter Shallcross (PS) (Director), Emma Worth (EW) (Consultant),

Ione Lacey, David Lacey, Susan Jonas, Richard Budden, Lynne Budden, Diane Ann May, Chris Walford, Bear Reed, Mary Myers, Anne Maryon-Davis, Penny Freeman, Judith Hassey, Roger Walker, Janey Stevens, Patrick Craig-McFeely, Sally Craig-McFeely, Michael Bernard, Catherine Bernard, Elizabeth Harcourt, Monica Carlile, Laura Downer, Jeremy Coate, Julian Crawford, Olivia Garran.

Apologies: Richard Ecclestone (RE) (Asset Manager), Elizabeth Forbes, Sue Powell, George Cruddas, Graeme Begg, Jerry Mason, Eric and Patricia Tracey, Bundy Riley, Tean Mitchell.

1. The Chair welcomed everybody, and the agenda was approved.
2. The draft minutes of the AGM 2023 were approved by all present.
3. **Chair's report** (previously circulated). AMD summarised his report and overview of 2023-24. After last year's AGM sadly director Tim Plumptre passed away. He was a director for over 5 years and also served as Chair. His business acumen and eye for detail was of great service. He was a lovely man and is much missed.
4. **NCE Accounts** 1 April 2023- 31 March 2024. SR showed NCE's revenue and expenditure, with retained surplus being £25,440 after £8000 was transferred to the Community Benefit Fund. Some of the surplus will be put aside as contingency funds, some for research and development of new projects. In 2023-24, £250 was spent on our Eco Trail from the Community Benefit Fund. This year the Fund has already helped pay for Victoria Hall's new LED lighting, a social club in Mere's new energy efficient boiler and Tisbury Carnival will be using an electric car instead of a diesel generator to power their music and lights. We encourage any local groups to apply for funding of up to £1500 for green projects.

Resolution 1. Accounts for the year were approved and adopted unanimously and an audit is not required.

Resolution 2. Directors were authorised to allocate up to £12,000 to the Community Benefit Fund in 2024/25

5. Resolution 3. Re-election of Director. Maggie Paul left the room and was unanimously voted back onto the Board as NCEs longest serving director.

6. Asset Manager's report. AMD summarised the performance of NCE's 16 sites in 2023-24. Some sites have been underperforming and as a result in 2024 we have had most of the farm installations cleaned. This is expensive but very necessary and has already improved generation at these sites. It was noted that it was surprising that they hadn't needed cleaning before this. These sites are now to have a clean every two years. It was also noted that as the first 10 sites are now nearly 10 years old, they may well be needing new inverters soon.

7. Tisbury Electric Car Club. GM reminded everyone that the club is run with restricted funds, kept separate from NCEs energy business. The club has been on hold since February when UK insurers pulled out of the car club market and would not insure them. Since then, some insurers will insure big car clubs but there was still no one prepared to insure small car sharing or hiring clubs. The options for us were to fold the club or join a larger co-operative such as Trydani but the cost would have gone from £3.6k a year to £8.4k. We then found a broker who offered insurance at £6650 a year. Then we found a new way of doing things with a cooperative platform (HiyaCar) who would insure each individual, per trip, including non-members at a slightly higher cost, do all the back office jobs such as billing and licence checks, would ask for higher fees from drivers with history of bad driving. They would charge £7160 for 3 years (including setup and platform fees). We have also been given a substantial donation by a generous member who wishes to help keep the car club going. The HiyaCar approach would lower our running costs and, together with the donation, would retain enough capital to allow us to look at upgrading our older car. Hire fees would increase but concessionary rates would still be available to members. If this plan goes ahead we will have a relaunch of the car club.

8. Towards our Third Share Offer. AMD explained how our planned third share offer, which we have finished all the preparations for, has been on hold as the School Academy has been going through a change of Trustees and personnel over several months. We hope to continue discussions with them and Salisbury Diocese this Autumn.

CEF Project. EW reminded everyone about NCE's last feasibility study, funded by a grant from the Rural Communities Energy Fund (RCEF) investigating renewable heating for six local schools. This showed that it was indeed cost-effective to install heat pumps in those schools but that the

financial model did not work for community energy groups. Therefore, NCE shared the research and EW helped the schools apply for Salix funding from their local authority. Three local schools, at Marnhull, Coombe Bissett and Chilmark, have now installed heat pumps.

EW moved on to explain that NCE have been awarded funding from the new Community Energy Fund (CEF) that has replaced RCEF for a feasibility study into a community-owned renewable energy 'club' to provide cheaper electricity using time-of-use tariffs. The customer would get cheaper electricity at times when the renewable energy installation was generating. There is an existing 'Energy Local' organisation who run about a dozen schemes using wind and solar installations. The EL model may work for NCE, but we would also be investigating other potential models providing local energy for local people. This project has just started, and we will report on it in our newsletters and on social media. We will be hiring a person to manage the community engagement part of this project. The meeting welcomed this investigative approach in principle and there was some discussion on how large an area a local scheme would cover.

9. **Community Benefit Initiatives.** RB explained how in mid-January 2024, NCE launched a 'Warmer At Home' service which involved a small team of trained volunteers providing individually tailored advice via home visits with a professional and her thermal imaging camera, and being able to refer people on to other schemes or funding by Wiltshire Council or other organisations. The service had relatively low take-up, but the team hope to build on this experience this coming winter to reach more people, and we will be purchasing our own camera for this purpose. Although Warmer at Home is open to all, we hope that more people in fuel poverty make use of the service, which is totally free and non-commercial and supported entirely by NCE's Community Benefit Fund.
10. **External Links.** MP explained how NCE work closely with other community energy groups, and are members of Wiltshire Climate Alliance, Wessex Community Energy Network, Salisbury Transition Town and Community Energy England. We continue to run a monthly informal **Green Drinks** gathering at the Boot Inn, Tisbury on the last Tuesday of the month. This has had some interesting speakers on retrofitting, renewable energy, insulation, tree planting, electric cars and more, as well as many informal general discussions. Beginning with the talk immediately following this AGM, NCE intend host a series of free talks on a variety of subjects in the future. We also attend local events such as People In The Park in Salisbury and Tisbury Fete.
11. AMD closed the meeting at 7.30pm and invited everyone to stay behind for

an interesting talk by Michael Bernard on Britain's Energy Challenge: Are we getting the mix right?