



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Brixton Energy Solar 1

Online meeting held between 6pm-7pm on Monday 6th July 2020

Attendees

Agamemnon Otero *Director*
Andre Pinho *Director*
Jesse Scharf *Director*
Becky Payne *Secretary*
Afsheen Kabir Rashid

Fiona Glanville
Rosemary Glanville
Taylor Roark

Observers

Eva Goudouneix *Minutes*
Edward Gordon

Andy Maybury

Apologies

Clare Neely
Will Walker
Chris James

1. Welcome and Introductions

Jesse welcomed everyone to this Annual General Meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.

2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on Monday 22nd July 2019 between 6-7pm

Jesse presented the minutes of last year's AGM and a few points were highlighted:

- The Repowering newsletters, which include updates about the Brixton co-ops, have a good opening rate
- Members are encouraged to reinvest their shares. North Kensington Community Energy and Aldgate Solar Power are launching share offers this year. Lambeth Community Solar is still in the stage of finding sites.
- Motion 1 on Capital Repayment Fund: Directors decided not to make the loan to Lambeth Community Solar because the risks were too high and LCS secured an alternative source of funding
- Motion 2 on CEEF: This motion was adapted as it was agreed only in principle, and some tweaks were made (not only focusing on schools but also local organisations).

Action 1: Everyone approved the minutes of the last meeting.

3. Directors Report

The report show that:

- BES1 has generated 26,460kWh of electricity in 2019, and saved 12 tonnes of CO2
- BES1 continues to participate in the development of the innovation trial project 'CommUNITY', showing a direct link between electricity generation and consumption. To date over the trial period, average bill savings of 19% have been made, which is likely to attract more participants in the future
- Phase 2 of the project is in the planning stage and is intended to extend the functionality of the CommUNITY project via a second project - UEC (Urban Energy Club). The UEC project brings on the additional partner of UK Power Networks (UKPN). UEC will install a battery array alongside the BES1 solar array although it should be noted that go ahead is still subject to approval of the license that will be issued by Lambeth Council.
- After meeting operating and administrative costs, a surplus of £2,283 was generated for the year
- £128 of this surplus is retained as profit for the year so that the co-op can continue to build up a cushion of reserves for the future
- The Community Energy Efficiency Fund stands at the healthy amount of £12,224.

4. Financial Accounts

Afsheen presented the accounts and explained the following:

- We have increased our provision to replace the inverters and we have a couple of fire safety surveys lined up
- Repowering has kept their same administration fee to the same amount

Action 2: Taylor proposed to approve the accounts and Becky seconded. All attendees agreed.

5. Appointment of Auditor

Action 3: Aga proposed not to appoint an external auditor, and Taylor seconded. All attendees agreed.

Action 4: Andre proposed to approve the Directors' report and Aga seconded. All attendees agreed.

6. Election of directors

Jesse resigned as part of the rotation cycle and stands up again for Directorship.

Action 5: Rosemary proposed to appoint Jesse as Director, and Andre seconded. All attendees agreed, except Althea who abstained.

7. Discussion

- Rosemary raised the problem of the repetition between AGMs of the Brixton Energy co-ops.
- Andre presented the CommUNITY project to the members. The motivation behind the project was to enable BES1 to directly benefit not only the TRA (who buys discounted electricity) and its investors members (who receive interests), but also the residents of the Loughborough Estate. With CommUNITY, electricity becomes cheaper for residents when they consume it at a specific time.
- Gordon, who has been leading on community engagement for CommUNITY, said the number of participants could rise if residents are shown how to use the app etc. The main difficulty is the length of the process to get residents involved – They need to understand the concept and trust the project and the system (having electricity issues is a big concern).
- We have engaged with Lambeth Council to develop Phase 2 of CommUNITY. It is part of Ofgem's sandbox where we can test and develop such models. We've also learnt to work with partners like EDF. There is still a lot of development to make it replicable and scalable.
- No formal press coverage for this work yet.
- Gordon explains that engagement needs to be kept up and maintained. Important to have a strong brand to ensure people remember the project. What brand is more valuable during trials? Repowering, Brixton Energy? Brixton Energy brand is more towards the asset itself and

Repowering more around the development and innovation projects. But Brixton Energy brand could be extended.

- Gordon also pointed out that other challenges were recruiting close to Christmas, and then the outbreak of COVID-19.

8. Community Fund discussion (with BES2 members)

Following the 2018 AGM held in July 2019, the BES1 and BES2 Directors have developed a process to distribute the Community Fund. As both co-ops have their panels installed on the Loughborough Estate, they have been coordinating their efforts. The Funds have been structured in **two pots** and individuals and groups can apply by filling an Expression of Interest (EOI) form. A **funding panel** will go through the EOIs, and any member of BES1 or 2 is welcomed to join this panel.

Pot 1 is for projects and groups that engage residents of the Loughborough Estate and the immediate area around climate change, energy efficiency, sustainability, or fuel poverty. Pot 2 is for projects that are not related to these topics but would benefit residents of the Loughborough Estate and the immediate area.

So far, we have received the following EOIs:

Pot 1

- Somebody in the area who wants to do set up a solar thermal project
- Loughborough Junction Action Group – to do some work with the farm gardens, food growing, and distribute tomato plants to people in the area
- Repowering – to support their Energy Champions and write off energy debt

Pot 2

- We have allocated £500 to Brixton Soup Kitchen and £500 to the Loughborough Community Centre Happy Lunch and Play project. The donations were very gratefully received.
- We have also given £500 to Community Clear Web, organisation providing IT support for people who have IT issues.
- We have also allocated £500 to the Loughborough Action Group, part of which went to the Platform cafe.

Discussion

- Andy is enthusiastic about the solar thermal idea and encourages the panel to look into the project more. Jesse said they will take the conversation further.
- Gordon explained that community groups can lack time to apply for funding – the Funds could allocate a budget for community groups to do that.

Action 6: Jesse suggested to have a conversation about this once the 2020 Funding round is allocated.

9. AOB