



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Lambeth Community Solar

Thursday 25th June 2020, 6.30 – 8pm

Online meeting

Attendees:

Directors:

Dave Fuller *Chair*

Becky Payne

Andre Pinho

Felix Wight

Members:

Eva Goudouneix *Minutes*

Timothy Minshall

Andy Scholes

Ruth Wright

Clare Turgoose

Christopher James

Pippa Winship

Ingrid Holmes

Chris Kilby

Ajai Ahluwalia

Belinda Murray

Imogen Pursch

Apologies:

Afsheen Kabir Rashid

1. Welcome and introductions

Dave welcomed everyone to the first AGM of Lambeth Community Solar. Everyone introduced themselves.

2. 2019 annual report

Eva presented the 2019 annual report:

- On 18th September 2019, LCS launched its first community share offer to raise the £137,000 to purchase and install the solar panels on the Elmgreen and the Norwood schools. This amount was raised within 8 weeks from 170 investors, 75% of which live in Lambeth.
- The share offer was widely promoted through attending community events, meeting with other local groups, putting up flyers and posters, producing social media content, flyering and organising events
- Our volunteer group has established into a core group of 10 volunteers and have helped in promoting the share offer, developing the communications, and reaching out to new networks.
- We installed the 83 kW of solar panels on the Norwood school in November 2019. The installation on the Elmgreen school was delayed because of uncertainties on its roof condition. The 62 kW of solar panels were installed in February 2020 during half-term holiday.
- There have been slight delays in installing the export meters for both Norwood and Elmgreen, due to issues with the existing metering arrangements and the challenge of accessing the schools during term time.

3. Financial accounts

Dave presented the financial accounts. Due to lack of trading activity for the year we have only produced a balance sheet and not a profit and loss statement. A full set of accounts will be prepared for future years. The balance sheet shows that:

- A total share capital of £138,200 was raised through the community share offer
- £70,665 of the share capital raised was invested to install the solar array at Norwood School.
- £3,533 VAT was paid as part of the purchase that has been recovered through the quarterly VAT returns in Feb 2020
- Expenses during the period relate to admin costs of £83 associated with the handling of share offer payments

Action 1: Eva proposed to approve the directors report and financial accounts and Chris seconded. Everyone agreed.

4. Appointment of an external auditor

This is not a statutory requirement for organisations with a turnover like NKCE, and we do not have the finances to appoint an external auditor.

Action 2: Dave proposed not to appoint an auditor for the above reasons and Chris seconded. Everyone agreed.

5. Motion

Eva presented the motion. When we created the first LCS share offer, we set out the terms in the share offer document. Since the success of LCS's first project, we are planning to install solar panels on more schools and community centres in the borough. We have received grant funding to do feasibility study on three more sites and hope to do many more. We have been seeking advice from

UK Co-ops and the Community Shares Unit on how to launch multiple share offers under the same co-op. An option is to have a different class of shares for each project which requires a lot of administration work. Another option is to keep a single class of shares and make sure that all projects we take on have identical or better terms. The advantage is to mitigate the risks and keep the admin costs low. However, this would require members to trust the directors to make their due diligence before taking on board new projects.

Andy raised a concern regarding the motion. He explained that it would be difficult to trust the directors and that members would need to be oversight of the process when selecting new sites. Dave explained that members would have their say in the process at every stage, and that Directors would make financial forecasts available before launching new share offers.

Action 3: Eva proposed to approve the motion and Pippa seconded. Everybody agreed.

6. Discussion: LCS in 2020

What are our vision and priorities for Lambeth Community Solar in 2020? Everyone was invited to answer this question in breakout rooms.

Some thoughts from the breakout rooms:

- *We discussed expanding onto new sites (churches, youth clubs) and wanted to think about what our guardrails for projects are (prefer sites which have educational benefits instead of just meeting technical or community benefits eligibility). We also discussed being ambitious and thinking about expanding onto Brockwell Park potentially to combine solar energy and food growing projects where possible.*
- *Future activities should spread to less affluent areas/schools. Concrete tower blocks in Clapham Junction/Wandsworth boundary were suggested*
- *We think there are benefits to focussing on schools and replicating (whilst continuing to improve on) the existing LCS solar panel model. We are particularly interested in developing the role LCS can play in providing opportunities for students at these schools, whether this is through delivering climate change workshops or internship/work opportunities. However, we do note that the removal of the feed-in-tariff may bring the previous LCS model into question.*
- *LCS should engage with parents from schools more and collaborate with XR Lambeth as well as Low Traffic Neighbourhood projects.*
- *We think there are other interesting projects worth exploring, such as anaerobic digestors and recycling schemes. It would be interesting to review community project going on in other boroughs, either as part of LCS or other organisations, to get of a view of what else could be possible.*

7. Election of directors

Eva explained the model rules require that all directors stand down at the first AGM. Clare, Pippa, Ajai and Chris are standing for election. Andre and Becky are not re-standing for election.

Action 4: Becky proposed to re-elect Dave and Eva seconded. Everyone agreed.

Action 5: Andre proposed to re-elect Felix and Chris seconded. Everyone agreed.

Action 6: Eva proposed to elect Ajai and Pippa seconded. Everyone agreed.

Action 7: Ajai proposed to elect Pippa and Dave seconded. Everyone agreed.

Action 8: Pippa proposed to elect Claire and Becky seconded. Everyone agreed.

Action 9: Claire proposed to elect Chris and Dave seconded. Everyone agreed.