



## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Banister House Solar**

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020, 6.30 – 8pm

*Online meeting*

### **Attendees:**

#### **Directors:**

Leila Fortunato  
Melissa Harflett (Chair)  
Wilhelmina Stewart  
Glyn Thomas  
Elias Hamaz  
Ann Cannai

#### **Members:**

Afsheen Rashid  
Agamemnon Otero  
Jan and Liz  
Simon Worth  
Chris James

#### **Observers:**

Eva Goudouneix (meeting minutes)  
Edward Gordon

### **1. Welcome, introductions, approval of minutes**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the AGM for Banister House Solar and invited introductions from the members.

**Action 1: Afsheen proposed to approve the minutes from the last meeting and Leila seconded. All attendees agreed.**

### **2. 2019 Annual report**

Leila presented the 2019 annual report:

- Up to the end of December 2019, the Banister House solar array has generated a total of 79,401 kWh of electricity – compared to 80,587 kWh in 2018.
- Phase 1 of the Tenant Electricity Exchange completed in 2019 and we are in discussion with British Gas to develop Phase 2. As part of Phase 1, 26 households on the Estate received a small smart home hub to enable residents to share lower cost renewable energy between one another for free, as well as benefit from the functionality of the Verv Home Energy Assistant.

- During 2019, our Directors Leila and Wilhelmina continue to showcase the work of the co-op speaking at external stakeholder events. Glyn has also been representing the co-op at the Community Energy London meetings.
- The financial accounts show that a surplus of £8,267 was generated for the year. It is proposed that an interest rate of 4% (£5,930) is paid on the share capital of £148,250. For the year £1,151 is set aside for the Community Fund, which stands at the end of 2019 at £4,728.

Glyn recommends the meetings of Community Energy London at City Hall. Afsheen said we could circulate these meetings in our newsletter. Jan asked if we had results of the Exchange trial. Afsheen answered that no data had been communicated yet. Repowering is having discussions with the existing supplier to figure out what the trial would look like 'in real life' in the regulatory context. Phase 1 of the trial was a purely technical exercise to assess householder demand and how it would match with the solar generation – no behavioural/motivational dimension yet.

**Action 2: Afsheen to update on the Tenant Electricity Exchange results when they become available.**

**Action 3: Leila proposed to approve the Annual report and Afsheen seconded. All attendees agreed.**

### 3. Financial report

Melissa presented the report. Fixed assets only include the solar panels, the ownership of the batteries have not been transferred to Banister House Solar and is owned by the trial funders. The income from the sale of electricity to the Council depends on their electricity tariff that is being checked on a yearly basis. We sell them the electricity at a 10% discount.

Afsheen proposed the approval of the accounts and that:

- £1151 will be set aside to the Community Fund
- An interest rate of 4% will be paid on the share capital

**Action 4: All attendees agreed with the above proposal.**

### 4. Appointment of an external auditor

**Action 5: Afsheen proposed not to appoint an external auditor and Glyn seconded. All attendees agreed.**

### 5. Discussion on Community Fund

Melissa and Leila made several suggestions on how the Community Fund could be spent.

Melissa:

- Help young people on the estate and Community Garden on the estate who are looking for a new shed and a strimmer.
- The Kenton pub is looking to do a hot meals service and has opened a crowdfunder. There is also a restaurant on Dalston Lane called Angelina

Leila:

- Hackney Quest, a youth group doing food deliveries to local people and getting some teenagers to come and help
- East London Rape Crisis NIA/women's Aid

Afsheen suggested the following process: putting aside £2500 from the Community Fund -so that there is some money aside to support fuel poverty projects in the Winter- and allocate

£500 to 5 Community Groups. BHS members need to encourage organisations to submit Expressions of Interest for the group to consider and assess against certain criteria (local organisation, prioritized causes: domestic violence, hot meals, fuel poverty).

**Action 6: Glyn proposed to start by spending £2500 (half of the Community Fund) so that we have provisions for after COVID-19. All attendees agreed.**

Agamemnon proposed to focus on the estate to spend the Community Fund.

- Young people who are looking for opportunities and need support.
- The estate gardens to grow food.

Agamemnon has done CV and interview training on Zoom for other programmes and it worked well. Leila mentioned that young people can feel a bit delusional after having been locked in all this time. It could be good to find something to keep them meaningfully busy over the summer months but also longer term.

Ann explained the overs 50's club has been dismantled as she is no longer living on the estate.

**Action 7: Ann will think about other projects that need help and support close to Banister House and get back to other members.**

Jan pointed out that Hackney Council has launched an apprenticeship scheme in Hackney that we could try and promote to young people on the estate. Afsheen explained that it has been hard to get young people at previous events, so it is a matter of finding where to promote efficiently.

**Action 8: Leila will set up the Instagram page so BHS can reach out to a wider audience.**

Melissa proposed that we develop LinkedIn training alongside CV and interview training. We could also widen up the scope as people will have been made redundant because of COVID.

Leila suggested to create a gardening club for children at the Community Garden.

Glyn suggested that our priorities should be providing food for people who need and opportunities for work. Melissa added domestic violence.

**3 priorities have come out of the conversation:**

- food for people in need
- opportunities to enter the labour market or get back to employment
- domestic violence.

**Action 8: everyone to think about who can provide employment training in Hackney.**

Agamemnon pointed out that Banister as an established Society can seek for match funding. He can help the group to seek for match funders.

## **6. Election of Directors**

Leila and Wilhelmina stood down as part of the rotation cycle and also put their names forward for nomination.

**Action 9: Afsheen proposed that Leila is elected as a director again and Melissa seconds it. Leila is re-elected as Director of Banister House Solar.**

**Action 10: Melissa proposed that Wilhelmina is elected as a director and Glyn and Elias approved. Wilhelmina is re-elected as Director of Banister House Solar.**

Due to Ben's absence it was agreed that Ben would no longer be a Director.

## 7. Next meeting

Melissa suggested to meet in two weeks to discuss allocations of the Community Fund. In the meantime, everyone will circulate the EOI form for Community Fund applications. Ann, Simon, Jan, would like to attend the discussion on the Community Fund with other directors.

**Action 11: Eva and Afsheen to organise this meeting.**

## 8. AOB

Jan presented Sustainable Hackney (<https://sustainablehackney.org.uk/>) and suggested to affiliate to this group, who engages with schools, community energy and other sustainable initiatives. Affiliating to Sustainable Hackney can offer a way to get on social media and have a broader online presence. It is £20/year for membership fee.

**Action 12: The Directors will consider this proposition at the next meeting.**

**Action 13: Melissa will set up a Banister House Solar twitter account**

Elias has coding skills and would be keen on getting involved with setting up a website for Banister House Solar. We could have our own domain and make the website from scratch or it could be under the Repowering website. Afsheen pointed out that a website needs regular updating to keep content live. Agamemnon suggested registering the domain but with a re-direction/picture to the Repowering website. And twitter and Instagram could appear on that page as well. Static page linking to live Repowering page.

**Action 14: This will also be discussed at the next meeting alongside Community Fund allocation.**