

Bittern Countryside Community Interest Company

Old Station Building, Station Road, Arnside, Cumbria LA5 0HG

Company Number 6363720

E-mail: bitterncic@arnsidesilverdaleaonb.org.uk



Minutes of the Ninth Annual General Meeting held at 7.00 pm on Friday 10th March 2017 at RSPB Leighton Moss Visitor Centre, Silverdale.

Before the main business David Askew introduced two speakers from National Grid who gave an interesting presentation on proposals to connect the proposed Moorside Power Station at Sellafield with the main electricity network near Heysham and in particular the proposed tunnel to take the cables under Morecambe Bay.

The presentation was well-received with number interesting issues being aired regarding the construction and operation.

The main business meeting followed after a short break.

1. Present and Apologies

Present: Shareholders: Ann Kitchen (Chairman), David Askew, George Steele, Alan Rhodes, Heather Rhodes, Roger Walton, Natalia Walton, Fiona Allan, Val Stevens, Malcolm Stevens, Robin Horner, Roger Cartwright, Mike Smith, Jeanette Smith and Ken Kitchen.

Others: Ray Anslow, Liz Anslow (Landscape Trust)

Speakers: Steve Crowe, Robert Powell and Chris Tutton (National Grid).

Apologies were received from: Kate Schofield, David Farrant, Margaret Bromley-Webb, Jean Watts, Ann Gegg, Laura Middleton, Steve Kirtley, Mike Warren, Liz Richards, Bob Hamnett, John Webb, Lorna Askew, Susan Briscoe and Lesley Edkins.

2. Minutes of the last AGM

The Minutes of the last Meeting held on 18 March 2016 were agreed as a true record (Proposer: Roger Walton; Seconder: Malcolm Stevens). The Minutes were thus signed by the Chairman as a true record. There were no matters arising not covered by the agenda.

3. Chairman's Report on Company Activities

The Chairman began by welcoming all shareholders old and new.

She confirmed that the Solar PV initiative was still bearing fruit and explained that the redundant panels from the Leeds Children's Holiday Home had been donated to the Wildlife Oasis. From the £5,000 returned to us by LCHC £1,000 was allocated to help with installation. The solar panels from Silverdale Primary School and the AONB

Office are continuing to generate. The CIC is currently looking to assist the four schools not helped through the PV Solar scheme to lower their energy costs.

The Parish signboard project is bearing fruit with help of the AONB. Each parish is being offered help with the design and production of a series of parish information boards.

The Silverdale District Woodbank is thriving and continues to help local woodland owners to manage their woodlands in exchange for the surplus wood.

The Wildlife Atlases continue to sell well at the RSPB café. 50p is donated to the RSPB for each sale.

As a member of the AONB Executive Committee she can continue through the BCCIC to support the AONB in many other ways. Lately the Company has provided food for the birdfeeders installed outside the AONB offices.

The BCCIC always welcomes suggestions from the shareholders as to further possible initiatives. It still has vacancies for any who would like to serve as directors.

Financially the Company remains on a sound footing and have managed to further many of its aims.

The Chairman ended by thanking Barbara Henneberry of the AONB Unit and Mike Redman for their work on the website and Mike Smith for providing the input. Thanks were also accorded to the officers of the Company.

4. Report of the Finance Director and Presentation of the Accounts

After circulating an abridged copy of the Company Accounts, David Askew said that the Company had had a successful year and had achieved an operating profit. He proposed not to employ an accountant this year as the Corporation tax bill would be zero. Currently the Company's bankers – the Cooperative Bank did not pay any interest on the current account. He proposed to investigate whether the Company should continue with the Coop or move its account to a Bank paying interest. There were also currently some doubts as to the future ownership of the Coop Bank. Members agreed to this proposal with a show of hands.

David explained that the balance on the current account at year end (30 Sept 2016) was £8,969. From this had to deducted £3 paid in Corporation tax and £600 falling due to a creditor within one year, making a net value of £8,366. In the year the Company had made a profit of £998 compared with a loss in the previous year of £1,327. The cumulative losses are therefore now reduced to £2,804. Deducting this from the Paid-up share capital of £11,170 confirms the value of the Company is now £8,366.

In the year the Company had a turnover of £1,712 derived from sales and Feed-in Tariffs. From this has to be deducted the cost of sales (£261) and administrative expenses (£453) making the net profit of £998. The remaining book value of computer and other equipment held of £79 is now reduced to zero.

5. Approval of Reports and Accounts

That the Accounts be accepted was proposed by R Walton and seconded by M Stevens. This was confirmed by a show of hands.

6. Re-Appointment/Election of Directors

This year, D Askew, D Farrant and R Horner retired as directors. All three have offered themselves for re-appointment. That the re-appointments be accepted was proposed by V Stevens and seconded by F Allan. This was accepted by a show of hands.

7. Any Other Business

R Horner offered thanks to the chairman for leading the Company so well. A Kitchen also thanked all the shareholders for their support for the last year.

V Stevens asked whether solar panels still offered a viable option for the Company to support on other community buildings. A Kitchen said that the lower tariffs available and the lack of suitable buildings made it currently unlikely.

