

Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2019

Totnes Renewable Energy Society Limited
Company Number 30373R [The Society]

Held at the United Free Church, Fore Street, Totnes on Wednesday, 13th November 2019, 7-9pm

Present:

Ian Bright - Managing Director
Owen Hill - Company Secretary
Dr. Sally Murrall-Smith - Operations Manager
Steve Munday - Director of Planning
Olly Frankland - Director of Policy & Development
Alastair Gets - Director of Engineering
Sophie Galleymore-Bird – Digital Marketing Assistant

Members attended 44 + proxy votes 15 and approx. non-members 10

1. Welcome and Introduction: Owen Hill - AGM Chair/ Company Secretary

The Minutes of the AGM of 14th December, 2018 were approved.

2. Review of the Year: Ian Bright - Managing Director

Financial review in the first half of the year has produced significant operational cost savings. Grant aid has been used for new projects in development across a range of technologies: solar, hydro & anaerobic digestion. TRESOC is now well placed to take advantage of new opportunities for community renewable energy arising from the Climate Emergency declared by Devon local authorities. TRESOC's REEL Project remains popular with local schools.

New Members of the TRESOC Team -

- * Sophie Galleymore-Bird – Digital Marketing Assistant
- * Esther Giangrande – Communications Director
- *

Team Members Stepping Down

- * Nick Harris – REEL co-ordinator
- * Gerry Granshaw – Marketing and Coms director
- * Trevor Branton – Finance Director

3. Finance Report: Sally Murrall-Smith Operations Manager

The Accounts for the year ending March 2019 have been prepared with help from Darnells Chartered Accountants, who are confirmed as auditors for the next financial year.

Total turnover for the year was £64,640 which included solar output of £44,672 and income from consultancy services of £2,500 and a grant of £15,858 and other income of £1,610.

Sales:

Administrative expenses totaled £57,002 - which accounts for insurance, fees, auditors etc; and depreciation totaling £25,431.

A copy of the Accounts is available on the Tresoc website for view.

No interest payment to members in this financial year.

4. Financial Strategy - Investing in Sustainable Growth.

£8000k Co-share-booster grant financial analysis revealed that the company is not yet in a position to receive the community shares standard mark, due to a historical asset loss, ie due to the development costs associated with the windfarm that was not granted planning permission. Thus, a move to a permanently open share-offer is not possible. The grant and associated work has been extremely valuable in helping TRESOC make some important changes to improve the functioning and trading position of the society:

- Halved annual overhead costs, reducing them by about £10,000 per year.
- Introduced a new panel cleaning regime at Hatchlands, which should greatly increase generation (and income).
- Reduced the long term deficit shown in the balance sheet, by reallocating a number of items shown as revenue, which should more properly be listed as capital (fixed assets).
- Set aside a reserve to pay for inverter replacement (which is needed every 10 years or so).
- Created a plan to set aside a reserve to pay for share withdrawals.
- Implemented a policy that requires development costs to be met by grants rather than generation income.
- Implement a share withdrawal policy of 70p in £1. To be reviewed when TRESOC's financial position improves.

Financial forecast for 2020 shows impact of changes. TRESOC is applying for development grants for over £105,000. Wages have been reduced by 50%. TRESOC intend to pay share interest of 1%. Overall loss is much reduced £11, 198.00.

Budget plans for 2019 will aim to move to profitability within the year through:

- a) Increasing Income : Returning to full generation by greater efficiency through automated panel cleaning, plus replacement of inverters and output monitoring through Argand platform. Further hydro and solar projects will be added to the existing portfolio as well.
- b) Reducing Costs: through costs of capital, such as repayment of the Charity Bank loan of £155K [plus 6% interest = £11K p.a], but also via new shares, especially following an Open Share Offer. This offer will have no closing date and will not be linked to a new investment; plus will have a clear timetable for buying back shares.

5. Projects for 2020

Ian Bright and Alastair Gets

Staverton Hydro: Planning application extended to Jan 2020. Environment Agency now engaged in Habitat Risk Assessment for the Project. RCEF funding sought for new flood risk and fisheries reports to address EA concerns.

Bidwell Brook School: Pre-application for FITs successful but solicitors acting for the School have advised against solar lease on property. FITs only available if project installed by end March.

Hatchlands: Technology now identified for spray washer cleaning trial to go ahead early 2020.

Pavilions: South Hams District Council have agreed to allow TRESOC solar lease on the Pavilions Leisure Centre, now in negotiation with Fusion & Tapool.

Clay Park Minigrid: TRESOC working with Transition Homes Community Land Trust to design, install and operate solar minigrid at Clay Park in 2020.

6. Members Q & A

Olly Frankland - Policy & Development Director

Members were invited to take any additional questions to the Tresoc team after the close of the official society business.

7. Society Business

Owen Hill - Company Secretary Director

Vote to disallow an Audit of the Accounts for year end 31st March 2020 unanimously approved

2 Directors retired this year, no need for resignation and re-election of Directors in 2019

8. Guest Speaker – Cllr Joseph Rose – Green Party, South Hams District Council

Finally, a thank you to Members and our Guest Speaker for joining the AGM tonight.

Signed

Ian Bright 18-11-2019

Ian Bright, Managing Director

