

**Wiltshire Community Wind Energy
Annual General Meeting held at The New Inn, Salisbury
13th July 2010 7.00pm**

MINUTES

Present:

Rachel Ross (RR)	Chairperson
Jack Mason (JM)	Treasurer
Jason Cook (JC)	Site Champion
Margaret Willmott	SWAgenda 21 and Salisbury City Community Area Partnership
Sue Wright	Green Party
Vincent Albano	Wiltshire Council Climate Change Team: Carbon Reduction
David Williamson-Jones (DWJ)	Savill's Wind Energy Developer

Item		Action
1	Welcome and Introductions	
	Rachel Ross chaired the meeting and welcomed those present.	
2	Apologies for Absence	
	Andrew Maxted	
3	Election of Officers	
	Jack Mason agreed to stand again as Treasurer, and Rachel Ross as Chair. They were both proposed and seconded by Margaret Willmott and Sue Wright respectively, and were elected unanimously.	
4	Financial report	
	Jack Mason presented the financial report. The balance at the end of March 2010 was £300. The report was accepted by the meeting.	
5	Membership	
	We have around 40 members on our mailing list.	
6	Group activities 2009-10	
	<p>JM gave a flavour of the group's activities over the year: Last year a student from Bath University contacted WCWE for help and information on wind energy. July 09: JC gave a talk to the Chippenham CAVE group. WCWE received a donation of £200 Over the year the group has worked with Wiltshire Council, providing advice and facilitation. Aug 09: double spread article in Salisbury Journal Nov 09: JM spoke at Regen SW conference. Dec 09: contribution to Camco study for Wiltshire Council into renewables potential in Wiltshire. Spring 10: JC gave talk to Sutton Benger school Yr 6, which was well received by the students who were well-informed and asked some good questions. Mar 10: JM spoke to Wiltshire Village Halls group, who were looking at air source heat pumps in particular, but also wind. Around 5 or 6 visits had been paid by JM to farms and other organisations interested in wind turbines on their sites, most recently in the South West Wiltshire area. It is understood that one landowner is going ahead with application for a small turbine in the AONB.</p>	
7	Update on Sites	
	For Site Updates see Annex A (on request).	

Item		Action
8	Future developments and events	
	<p>JC reported on developments at Silton, (North Dorset) where Ecotricity are trying to develop turbines. The original plan for 6 has been scaled down to 4. Honda in Swindon planned for 4, now down to 3, again via Ecotricity. ET pay the landowner rent for the site, and the landowner also gets cheap power. This site was originally the Vickers/airfield site, and is 5 miles from Westmill.</p> <p>DWJ commented that Carbon Trust wind speed figures were most accurate. He stated that most developers require speeds of 7m/s, so most of available land in Wiltshire is not as attractive as other areas – e.g. Devon or Cornwall. They look at wind speed/access/power connection.</p> <p>Westmill/Silton are considered ‘marginal’ regarding wind speed, (though Westmill have made an operating profit this year).</p> <p>Of the enquires Savills receive only 5% proceed to construction of wind turbines installations (nationally). DWJ is happy to receive referrals of enquiries from farmers re PV and wind. He could give them quick response re feasibility. There is an 18 month window to sign up, to get higher rate of FiT. He recommends ‘Gaia’ turbines as one of the most efficient and well established: £60k installed for Gaia turbine, blades 13m long, height 18m, 24m to tip. This should be OK for AONB.</p> <p>There was some discussion of PV, and that it might be easier to install in sensitive areas such as AONB, as well as cheaper. JC reported Neals Yard have installed PV on roof – better fit to power usage curve.</p> <p>Vincent Albano reported that Wiltshire Council’s carbon reduction strategy was at an early stage. The Camco study needs to have actions agreed. Vincent Albano confirmed the importance of getting wind turbine installed so as to provide an example to others. Regen SW have set up ‘Communities for Renewables’ project: a finance model for community-owned renewable generation. Wiltshire Council will be looking at its own farms and land for possible opportunities. The Centre for Sustainable Energy in Bristol have produced a resource pack for community groups. The Wiltshire Council Climate Team are hoping to pilot it with 2/3 groups in Wiltshire. It was suggested that Transcoco, BoA and Urchfont were approached.</p> <p>WCWE ACTIONS Organic farms: JM proposed approaching organic farms in Wilts – (Pertwood in AONB? – others?) VA suggested looking at WWT World Changers map for potentially supportive landowners. We need to establish with the AONB what is the max size acceptable. Less than 30m tip height? Monthly calls: Group members to make monthly follow-up calls to prospects to check how getting on, whether help needed? (RR addition after meeting: Group members to ‘revisit’ original approaches now FiT announced, with figures, in case might be more interested?)</p>	<p>RR</p> <p>Site champions to be contacted</p>
9	Correspondence	
	Nothing further to report	
10	AOB	
	MW reported that the Wiltshire Community Plan is out for consultation (August closing date). She encouraged attendees to look at the website and contribute comments.	

Item		Action
11	DONM	
	Tuesday late September – date to be confirmed. It was proposed that we look into setting up a ‘conference call’ for the next meeting, to avoid the need to travel. JC suggested a website ‘conferencegenie.com’ that can be used to facilitate. Calls cost 1p/minute.	JM