

**Wiltshire Community Wind Energy
Annual General Meeting held in Salisbury
21st April 2009 7.00pm**

MINUTES

Present:

| | |
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| Rachel Ross (RR) | Chairperson |
| Jack Mason (JM) | Treasurer |
| Pete Mathews (PM) | Site Champion |
| Moura MacDonagh (MM) | Site Champion |
| Jason Cook (JC) | Site Champion |
| Gill Wheeler (GW) | Site Champion |
| Jacky Thomas (JT) | World Changers Coordinator |
| Andrew Maxted (AM) | |

| Item | | Action |
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| 1 | Welcome and Introductions | |
| 1.1 | Rachel Ross chaired the meeting and welcomed members of the group to the meeting at her house. RR thanked all for coming and particularly AM who had come to the meeting through contacts with Climate Friendly Bradford-on-Avon but who was also a spatial planner for Wiltshire Council. AM confirmed that he was here in a personal capacity only at this meeting. | |
| 2 | Apologies for Absence | |
| 2.1 | None were noted at the meeting. [Post meeting note: In further checking of recent emails Margaret Willmot sent her apologies and wished the meeting well] | |
| 3 | Adoption of Constitution | |
| 3.1 | JM confirmed that the constitution adopted by the group on the 17 th February 2009 remain unchanged and was presented to the AGM for final confirmation. JM confirmed that the minor amendment identified in the meeting on the 17 th February (in section 8) had now been typed into the document. | |
| 3.2 | The constitution was adopted by mutual agreement. | |
| 4 | Election of Officers | |
| 4.1 | Rachel Ross put herself forward as the chairperson. Her appointment was approved by mutual agreement. | |
| 4.2 | Jack Mason put himself forward as the group treasurer. His appointment was approved by mutual agreement. | |
| 4.3 | RR suggested that the role of secretary could be shared in the group. For instance the taking of meeting notes could be rotated. There was general agreement that this was a good way of avoiding an undue burden on any single person. JM agreed to take notes of the AGM. | |
| 5 | Membership | |
| 5.1 | The meeting discussed the issue of formalising membership of the group. JT confirmed that a non-formal membership system as currently operating was quite acceptable. Jm confirmed that the present 'circulation list' was a mixture of those that were central to the group and others that wanted to be kept informed but were not necessarily involved. There was general agreement that this fairly loose arrangement had worked satisfactorily so far and there was not considered any need to change it at present. | |
| 5.2 | The meeting discussed whether a membership fee should be charged. JC suggested that the costs of running the group were not particularly high at the moment. There was general consensus that a 'voluntary contribution towards costs' should be requested of the membership, but that no formal membership fee would be introduced. | |

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| 6 | Bank Account | |
| 6.1 | JM confirmed that a treasurer's account had now been set up with the Nationwide Building Society. JM confirmed that at the time of writing the pass book was now available but the cheque book was still awaited. | |
| 6.2 | JT recommended that the group should keep records of expenditure and voluntary hours worked. JT confirmed that this information was very useful if there were changes in the meeting structure or when speaking with potential funding bodies. MM agreed that some basic information should be kept. | |
| 6.3 | During the meeting a phone call was taken by RR, indicating that Benji Goehl (formally of Sarum Solar) was going to give £100 to the group. This was welcomed by all. RR suggested that JM should receive the deposit he provided to open the treasurer's account. | |
| 7 | Group Actions for 2009 and Beyond | |
| 7.1 | JM summarised what the group had done so far:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaken some GIS mapping of the county to determine potential sites • Built a website to attract new members • Identified 18 potential wind turbine locations throughout the county • Undertaken some initial site appraisal – through the 'Site Champions' | |
| 7.2 | JM confirmed that he felt that the next step was to talk to relevant landowners to gauge interest and take the work forward. JM asked the group whether this general direction was correct. | |
| 7.3 | AM queried whether the focus on wind energy only was too restrictive and potentially was one of the most controversial of renewable energy technologies. JC suggested that there was a danger of spreading resources too thinly and the group was still quite small. JM suggested that one of the main roles of the group was to help educate people that new turbines should be considered in the county, and that there were potentially large renewable energy rewards with wind power if it was built in the right place. However that was not to say that support for other technologies was excluded. | |
| 7.4 | There was general agreement that the overall approach was correct, and that speaking with landowners was the next stage. MM suggested that it was important to have the answer to the question to what next when landowners showed interest in taking potential projects forward. JC stated that it was important to have an initial contact with wind farm developers so that we were aware of who to talk to. JM confirmed that Westmill wind farm had approached the group (see 9). JC confirmed that he had contacts with ecotricity and could make approaches | JC |
| 8 | Update from Site Champions on Progress so far with Target Sites | |
| 8.1 | JM requested that the site champions for each of the 18 sites should be confirmed, and this was completed. JM recommended that the sites should remain confidential to the group for the time being until we had progressed the assessment of the target sites and had initial discussions with landowners. AM agreed with this but thought that Wiltshire Council may like to offer some support and perhaps help. JM and AM agreed to discuss this at a future meetings Detailed information on the progress on the candidate sites is available in Annex A (by request) | AM/JM |
| 9 | Correspondence | |
| 9.1 | JM confirmed that the group had been emailed by Mike Blanch of Westmill wind Farm Co-op. Mike Blanch is a technical advisor to the Coop board and also a trustee of Westmill Sustainable Energy Trust (WeSET). WeSET has been set up to support sustainable energy projects within 25 miles of Westmill (which includes parts of Wiltshire). JM has replied outlining the work so far. JM to follow up. JC was also interested in meeting the Westmill group. | JM/JC |
| 9.2 | JM confirmed that the group had been approached by Andy Birch of Hallam Land Management (HLM). JM confirmed that HLM were a commercial developer and they were interested in what we had done so far, and wondered whether we could work with | |

| Item | | Action |
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| | them. JM agreed to follow this up. [Post meeting note: it would be useful to have another member of the group at the meeting. I understand that Andy Birch lives in Chippenham]. | JM |
| 10 | Any Other Business | |
| 10.1 | GW asked whether anybody from the group would be happy to give a brief talk to CAVE (Chippenham and Villages Environmentalists] regarding the groups activities. JC agreed to give the talk. JM send that he would forward recent powerpoint presentations to JC. [Post meting note: These will be put on the 4shared site in the next few days] | JC JM |
| 10.2 | RR confirmed that she was meeting Ariane Crampton (the new Wiltshire Council Climate Change officer) tomorrow within her work but would mention Wiltshire Community Wind Energy | RR |
| 11 | Date of next meeting | |
| 11.1 | It was suggested that the next meeting should be Tuesday 23rd June . [Post meeting note: it is now understood that key members cannot make this date. All members are aked to consider the alternative date one week later – Tuesday 30th June 2009]. Gill Wheeler kindly agreed to have the meeting at her home in Chippenham. | ALL |
| | END | |