

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Community Energy Scotland Limited held via Zoom on Monday, 18 June 2025 at 12 noon

Directors Present	Kaz Lyon, Calum MacDonald, Angela MacKellar, Rosie McGlynn, Nigel Burgess, Aameena Camps
Chair	Kaz Lyon
In Attendance (CES)	Laura Walker-Knowles, Rona Mackay, Zoe Holliday, Mark Hull
In Attendance	See Members Attendance Register
Proxies:	-
Minutes	Laura Walker-Knowles
Apologies	None
Member Groups	23 (to confirm)
Non-members	2

1. WELCOME

The Chair informed the meeting that as X community member groups were present, the meeting was therefore quorate and **DECLARED** the meeting formally **OPEN**.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

No apologies had been received.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair referred to the full Chair's Report in the Financial Statements to 31 March 2024. It was noted the period covered ended 15 months ago.

3. UNAPPROVED MINUTE OF AGM HELD 15 APRIL 2024

Calum MacDonald **PROPOSED** and Rosie McGlynn **SECONDED** and the Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 15 April 2024 were **AGREED** as a correct record without any further amendment and **APPROVED** by the Chair.

4. CONSIDERATION OF THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2023/2024

A link to the accounts had been circulated to attendees and Kaz Lyon summarised the headline figures in the profit and loss and the balance sheet with comparison to the prior year.

5. APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS

Elected Directors Aameena Camps and Artemis Pana stepped down and retired from the Board.

Elected Director Nigel Burgess stood down as required by the constitution and was nominated for re-election. Nominations had also been received from Angela MacKellar, Antoine Reguis, Ailsa Clark and Allan Wilson.

There were five vacancies for elected directors and therefore no requirement for an election.

As no election was necessary, Angela MacKellar, Antoine Reguis, Ailsa Clark and Allan Wilson were duly appointed as Directors. Rosie McGlynn **PROPOSED** the appointment of the above Calum MacDonald **SECONDED**.

Co-opted Directors, Kaz Lyon, Rosie McGlynn and Laura Finlayson stood down from the Board and re-stood for election, Calum MacDonald **PROPOSED** and Angela MacKellar **SECONDED** and Kaz Lyon, Rosie McGlynn and Laura Finlayson were appointed as Co-opted Directors to the Board.

Thanks were given to departing Directors Ameena Camp and Artemis Pana.

6. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

Mackenzie Kerr were recommended as auditors and re-appointed, **PROPOSED** by Rosie McGlynn and **SECONDED** by Ellen Grunewald.

7. AOCB

Community Energy Scotland – Review

Zoe Holliday, CEO presented the recent policy work undertaken by CES, including work with DTAS and CLS with seven calls to action which resulted in four papers. There had been progress in relation to capacity building which is part of the new CARES contract, with GB energy money twice the size this year.

In relation to repowering Community Energy Scotland are looking for opportunities for communities to repower private developments. The second repowering conference was in spring with energy ministers from UK and Scottish Government in attendance.

Community Energy Scotland are working alongside MSPs to submit amendments to look at the priorities for community energy on public land. OFGEM have acknowledged the need to designate community energy within grid connections and the UK has announced mandatory community benefits for infrastructure.

The UK Government Call for Views will look for opinions on making community benefits mandatory within a publicly available mandatory community benefits register, with Minister Shanks attending the roundtable. ZH would like as many communities to feed into the response and ZH will share bullet points as guidance following a meeting with CEE and CEW to assist a coordinated response.

ZH summarised other bills being fed into, including the P441 consultation in relation to the ability to create local energy markets, the Scottish Heat in Buildings Bill and the UK Energy Bill.

The Bills currently going through including the Community Wealth Building Bill, Land Reform Bill and the Wellbeing and Sustainable Development Bill.

In relation to the Community Benefit Consultation, Neil Barnes highlighted the great work Amanda and Kaz had put in.

Neil also commented in relation to Workers on the ground, close to the issue of the CARES capacity building with an element of revenue allocated in the growth fund which is supposed to be looking at getting officers in. Pressure is needed on the ministers, as this resulted in two years funding. It was acknowledged this was unprecedented.

Alan Stewart from Cowal

Alan Stewart gave a brief on Cowal Community Group's unsuccessful bid to repower. Of note was Forestry Land Scotland admitting they had not considered a community would be interested, which was their excuse for not advertising it.

Cowal are now challenging the process, that disposal of any land, may not succeed as being repowered by an individual community, but consideration should be given to shared ownership with a successful bidder.

There are ongoing discussions for a sizeable portion of a farm near Dunoon, although there is local opposition, but Cowal are there to make sure they can get what they can for the community.

Shared ownership as a group would allow more communities to take over sites for repowering and Cowal are trying to demonstrate that it is possible and highlight the considerable amount of money it could generate for rural communities across Scotland.

Calum MacDonald emphasised the point. Forestry Land Scotland has more windfarms on land than any other landowner in Europe, with over 1,000 MW of windfarms and none are community owned, in addition they have 500 – 600 MW in development or consent for development. This is a huge community energy landbank and in contrast onshore community energy is just over 100 MW, which is tiny compared with this.

It is important Cowal succeed and that other communities start moving on it and it highlights that Forestry Land Scotland do not advertise when they go to tender, leaving communities blindsided.

It was suggested that communities with Forestry Land Scotland land in their area submit an expression of interest under the Communities Right to Buy to take over the land as a measure toward safeguarding against this happening in future tendering processes. The Forestry Land

Scotland website has a very helpful map which shows all windfarms across Scotland and CM would encourage every member to register that interest as soon as they can.

Open Floor

ZH then invited comments from the floor.

Rosie McGlynn

An interesting insight into Forestry Land Scotland. In relation to Local Energy and GB Energy Local, there is a lot of academic work into energy systems going on, how they can be enabled and what are the barriers. However, what's missing is the community energy angle and this is an interesting topic for future engagement with members on how to bring out community pacemaker and community energy issues around generation and impact on communities, trying to push this forward. Community energy needs to have a locus on this; historically energy suppliers have not been supportive of local energy and to take forward and white label it would create great examples.

ZH commented this could be a good subjective for the next Energy Learning Network event.

Neil Barnes (Chat)

A lot of work and research has already been done on barriers to local energy. Our brilliant Lg S student placement Manuel Caucci did his SRUC dissertation on it in 2019/20 in tandem with LgS and interviewed key stakeholders. Others have done similar studies. We know what's needed. It's action and boots on the ground and substantial funding (nuclear & CCUS magnitude - those are white elephants) and policy prioritising community-owned energy not large developers and utility companies.

Calum MacDonald (Chat)

A workshop in community energy for senior FLS officials is being arranged for next Monday as part of our effort to get them to reform their current approach.

Ellen Grunewald

We need to focus on generation but also the future of heat networks and community ownership must be brought to the conversation. Local authorities' energy strategies should be interested in community owned heat networks and the need for them to work in partnership with the not for profit and regional partnership element. The lowest price for residents is not on the agenda nor are regional stakeholders.

There is evident success at Edinburgh Council with a delivery model. The council have a minority stake. There is very much the idea that communities cannot do this. We need to demonstrate the possibility with Shetland Heat Energy and Power, for example. There is a real opportunity over the next ten years to guide how we heat our buildings and community energy can drive this forward. ZH commented they have this focus now, with clean power 2030 targets but they do need to look at the whole system, who are the users and the

generators and make that system work for both sides rather than just generation capacity, rather than the constant return to electricity and fossil fuel prices.

Neil Barnes

This is the society we live in and we have this opportunity now and taking a leaf from West Lothian Workforce, we need to get more young people involved in this, with the right influence and messaging and projects delivering these benefits we can get under the skin of UK ministers and Scottish Government ministers. Working and joining forces with Steve Shaw at Power for People has had a lot of cross-party influence and carbon capture should not be so heavily invested in when it could be in this sector and create a proud legacy.

Nigel Burgess

Mull's efforts in addressing the climate situation should be commended but they do not have a way of sleeving power that does not go into the production of armaments.

Tom Skinner

Or that power being shipped to England.

Nigel Burgess (chat)

Request to see Community Energy Scotland's response to the P441 consultation. ZH advised it can be although the consultation hasn't been published yet.

Antoine Reguis

There is an event around 3 or 4 September 2025 which will look at how can we work on a model not for profit and how can we explore how best to support community involvement; we want to invite attendees from many places. ZH - Community Energy Scotland will share in their newsletter.

Rosie McGlynn

T-RESP are looking at planning and infrastructure, engaging with local authorities and mentioned Community Energy Scotland, but more broadly, community energy groups need to raise their profile with T-RESP with the role that community energy and heat and power are in their line of sight, and heat feeds into that.

ZH commented that they are looking at what may be the future demand up to 2050, long term aspirational plans should be shared with them or us.

This can be fed in through the State of the Sector survey, it is not live again until January but can be completed at any time. This really helps build a picture to feed in upgrades and where we need to make plans for more ambitious projects. Please feedback through any channel that you choose.

Attendees noted the Community Energy Scotland Conference 2025 will be on 24 September at Edinburgh Haymarket.

ZH thanked everyone for attending and their engagement.

KL thanked everyone and closed the meeting.

The AGM finished at 1.05 p.m.