



Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Brixton Energy Solar 1, 2, 3

Online meeting held between 6pm-8pm on Monday 10th May 2021

Attendees

Agamemnon Otero *Director*
Andre Pinho *Director*
Jesse Scharf *Director*
Becky Payne
Fiona Glanville
Rosemary Glanville
Will Walker
Andy Maybury
Althea Gordon-Davidson
Fay Gordon
Margery Povall
Tony Cooke
Damon Hart-Davis
Jesse Scharf *Director*
Clara Kamay

Observers

Eva Goudouneix *Minutes*
Felix Wight

Apologies

Clare Neely
Chris James
Guy Roberts
John Brown
Edward Gordon *Director*

1. Welcome and Introductions

Afsheen welcomed everyone to this Annual General Meeting. This year the directors are proposing to run the AGM differently and start by a presentation on innovation projects before going through the AGM items.

2. Felix's presentation on innovation

Felix presented Repowering's work on two innovation projects in 2020 with BES1, 2 and 3:

- The CommUNITY project in Elmore House, in collaboration with EDF Energy (completed).
 - Energy Local Roupell Park in Roupell Park, in collaboration with Octopus (ongoing).
- The aim of our innovation work is to share more benefits from our rooftop solar projects with residents of the Brixton Energy Solar estates, for fairness but also to tackle fuel poverty.
 - Surveys in Roupell Park and Loughborough estate show a majority of residents are worried about their energy bills. A third of the respondents said they had to choose between heating and eating.

Damon asked if Octopus could extend the model to other estates with solar panels on. Felix explained there are currently four Energy Local clubs up and running, so Roupell Park will be the 5th one, and the first one in an urban context using solar. The Energy Local model benefits to all club members (consumers and generators) and is a replicable model.

Andy asked about the CommUNITY project, and if there was enough electricity to supply both the DNO (UKPN) and the residents. Felix explained it isn't a problem given the size of the array, the battery, and the number of participants (4). The objective of the project is to maximise savings to residents with the highest amount of self-consumption (rather than exporting to the DNO).

Jesse asked if UKPN would continue paying BES1 for its flexibility services from the battery. Felix said the trial had ended but we could enter other arrangements with UKPN in the future. The battery is owned by Repowering but BES1 will be able to take it on when wanted at no cost.

Margery asked why the uptake wasn't higher on the CommUNITY project (4 out of the possible 13). Repowering will be doing some research into this over the next few months. Initial feedback is: the involvement of EDF can be a turn off; the complexity of the project; the uncertainty of benefits; people being particularly busy during the COVID-19 crisis; participation involving signing a form.

Tony asked about the use of the hardware-based solution from Solshare. Felix is currently explore this solution, but explained it is relatively expensive so it would require some grant contribution.

3. Brixton Energy Solar 1, 2 and 3: annual report, financial accounts, appointment of auditor, election of directors

Jesse presented **Brixton Energy Solar 1**.

The **annual report** shows that:

- The solar panels didn't generate as much electricity as forecasted for 2020 because an inverter was shut down for 9 months due to a failed electrical inspection. The costs of remedying were shared between Lambeth Council and BES1.
- BES1 and BES2 have put together a process to award funds through the Community Fund through two pots of funding. Funding has been allocated among others to Repowering London for their Community Support Services team, and Loughborough Farm to support different types of activities around food growing.
- Jesse thanked Repowering for their ongoing support to the co-op.

The **financial accounts** show that:

- The co-op will report a net loss for the year, the total income has been less than in 2019 due to the inverter being shut down.
- Directors propose to pay a 3% return on investment to investors and set aside £431 in the Community Fund.
- No shares were withdrawn in 2020 from the co-op.

Action 1: Jesse suggested to pay a 3% return on investment to investors. Agamemnon seconded. Everyone agreed.

Action 2: Becky suggested not to appoint an external auditor. Jesse seconded. Everyone agreed.

Action 3: Jesse suggested to accept the accounts. Andre seconded. Everyone agreed.

Action 4: Agamemnon stood down as part of the rotation cycle and Afsheen suggested to appoint Agamemnon as director. Jesse seconded. Everyone agreed.

Becky presented **Brixton Energy Solar 2**.

The **annual report** shows that:

- The solar panels have generated more electricity in 2020 than in 2019.

- Becky thanked Repowering for their ongoing support to the co-op.

The **financial accounts** show that:

- Directors propose to pay a 3% return on investment to investors (£1,719) and set aside £430 in the Community Fund.

Andy suggested we could pay a higher return to investors when the finances are looking healthy such as this year. Andre commented that the finances look healthy also because we made some provisions for inverter replacement.

Damon asked about the administration costs of £500 and their breakdown. This is Repowering's fee for maintaining the assets, organising the administration of the co-op.

Aga suggested to increase Repowering's administration costs. Rosemary said she would rather use surplus profit to increase the Community Fund rather than increasing the return to investors. Fay said she would like to see some youth training on the estate.

Action 1: Rosemary suggested to pay 3% return on investment to investors. Fay seconded. Everyone agreed.

Action 2: Gordon suggested to approve the accounts and the annual report and Andy seconded. Everyone agreed.

Action 3: Andy proposed not to appoint an external auditor and Agamemnon seconded. Everyone agreed.

Action 4: Becky stood down as part of the rotation cycle and Gordon suggested to appoint Becky as director. Andre seconded. Everyone agreed.

Action 5: The directors will consider Andy's proposal to pay a higher return to investors in the future.

Agamemnon presented **Brixton Energy Solar 3**.

The **annual report** shows that:

- The solar panels have generated more electricity in 2020 than in 2019, enough to power 16 average UK homes for a year. Some systems are underperforming however, and Repowering are collecting quotes for potential remedies works.
- Energy Local Roupell Park is a model that could be rolled out.
- Repowering's Community Champion has distributed almost £2,000 of fuel emergency vouchers to residents of the estate, funded by the Energy Redress Fund.

The **financial accounts** show that:

- A surplus of £4,131 was generated for the year. The Directors propose that £1,828 of this surplus is retained as profit for the year. It is proposed that the remaining £2,303 is split – 80% to pay shareholders and 20% to the Community Fund.

Damon asked about depreciation. These are funds set aside over the life of the project and they will be used to repay capital to investors.

Action 1: Becky suggested to approve the accounts, including the payment of a 3% return to investors, and the annual report. Andre seconded. Everyone agreed.

Action 2: Afsheen proposed not to appoint an external auditor and Becky seconded. Everyone agreed.

Action 3: Andre stood down as part of the rotation cycle and Agamemnon suggested to appoint Andre as director. Becky seconded. Everyone agreed.

4. Discussion

Agamemnon has stood down as co-CEO of Repowering but is staying in the board as 'Head of Resilient Cities'. He is now CEO of Energy Garden (<https://www.energygarden.org.uk/>).

Afsheen presented Repowering's projects in Lambeth:

- Lambeth Community Solar's ambition is to install 1MW in Lambeth by 2025
- Repowering is recruiting a Lambeth Community Solar community champion
- We are exploring possibilities to install on new sites (Max Roach community centre, LJ Works etc...)
- There is appetite from local authorities, community members and residents to start more community energy projects which is great to see.

Damon suggested to keep doing online AGMs after lockdown to enable more members to participate.