Heartland Community Wind

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

HELD AT 7PM ON MONDAY 30TH JUNE 2025

The Annual General Meeting of Members was held at 7pm on Monday 30th June 2025 using Zoom.

Members present: Elizabeth Leighton, Dan Hammond, Michael Nicholls, Stephen Mark Williams, Jeremy Brignell-Thorpe, Jerry Evans, Jon Hallė, David Crippin, Patricia Crippin, Eric McMichael, Mick Patrick, Shamsher Dharsani, Simon Graham, Jem Taylor

Attendance was 14. The quorum is 12 and the meeting was therefore quorate.

Also in attendance: Vicki Orttewell, David Newsome

Apologies were received from the following 20 Members: Ann Ashley, Derek Ashley, Graeme Begg, Ian Caldwell, Helen Claire Crackett, Alan Dickson, Robin Edwards, Herbert Eppel, David Haigh, Deborah Hamilton, Michael Isaacs, Alex Matheson, Caroline McManus, Edward Milford, Maurice Prendergast, John David Ripley, Janet Roberts, John Stott, Kelman Taylor, Allan Thomson

There were 14 voting forms received in advance.

Motion	Postal votes	AGM votes	Motion passed Y/N
Motion 1: To agree the minutes from the previous meeting, held on 18th June 2024	9 for	13 for	Y
Motion 2: To receive and adopt the Report of the Directors and the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2024	14 for	13 for	Y
Motion 3: In accordance with Section 84 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014, a resolution not to undertake a full professional audit of the Society for the year ending 31st December 2025	14 for	13 for	Y
Motion 4: To instruct the Board to: a. Further investigate the feasibility of repowering the Heartland site, with the aim of increasing energy generation and community benefit; b. Allocate a budget of up to £40k for this purpose; c. Seek grant funding where available for this purpose; d. Report to the next AGM on progress; e. Seek further shareholder approval for any repowering proposal once details are established.	13 for, 1 against	11 for, 1 against	Y
Motion 5: To make a share interest payment to Members of 5% of retained capital for the year ended 31st December 2024	14 for	12 for, 1 against	Y
Motion 6: To re-elect Elizabeth Leighton as a Director of the Society	14 for	12 for	Y

The meeting opened at 7pm with Heartland Director, Dan Hammond giving a detailed presentation on the findings of the recent scoping study into potential repowering. This was followed by an extensive Q & A with members asking for more information about the project.

- Why doesn't Heartland Community Wind currently qualify for CARES grant funding?

To qualify, HCW would have to be registered in Scotland. This would be an administrative address change only, in reality. An alternative option would be for HCW to partner with another organisation already registered in Scotland to be eligible. This needs further investigation on the best way to proceed.

- If a subsidiary body was set up to qualify for grant funding, what would the relationship with HCW be?

Whilst not out of the question, setting up a subsidiary might prove far more complicated than is necessary, so is possibly not the best way forward.

- Would a second-hand turbine be insurable?

There are repowered projects running with second-hand turbines that can be insured. However, this would need very thorough investigation before committing to a refurbished machine. It's recognized insurers are becoming more risk averse and are less keen to insure older turbines. We would look to purchase a turbine with a comprehensive service history and full maintenance log.

- What will happen to the current turbines if/when they are decommissioned?

There isn't at present a healthy second-hand market for our WTN turbines. There is a possibility of someone with a project needing smaller turbines wanting them but that's an unknown at this stage. If recycled, the WTNs do have useful steel and copper which can be reused.

- How much 'risk' spending is involved, and will this impact on community benefit funding and member share interest payments?

Detailed financial forecasting has not been done yet, so unable to give a full answer. However, if HCW should consider repowering, now is the right time with the changes in FiT eligibility.

- Does the present Board have the capacity to proceed with a repowering project?

The board welcomes members who are interested in becoming more involved to join a repowering project team. We're also very lucky to have received assistance from Mark Jennison, GEYR Ecosse and along with Sheridan Jenkins, Mark could contribute more to any repowering work.

- Are we not adding to CO2 by dismantling working turbines and ending the current project after 10 out of 20 years? Wouldn't it be better to extend the life of the existing project?

Embedded carbon in the existing project should be balanced out by substantially increased generation within a year possibly. It is common for larger turbines to run for much longer – typically 25/30 years but repowering of existing smaller schemes, such as HCW, makes sense when there is a proven wind resource, and the site can support a larger turbine.

- What is the situation with grid availability as there is news of projects being queued up waiting for grid capacity?

There have been recent changes in the grid application process in order to speed up progress of viable projects. Any project is always dependant on grid capacity and connection and there is an element of risk involved. A deposit must be paid to secure the connection, so other aspects of the project must be carefully time managed to minimize that risk.

- Is Zonal pricing of electricity going to negatively impact on a repowering project?

There has been no firm decision or announcement made on how this is going to work but we expect to hear shortly – certainly before HCW commit to anything. We will need to allow for fluctuations in energy prices in any financial modelling and changes due to zonal pricing may be smaller than other factors such as changes in the wider wholesale price.

- What would be the increase in Community Benefit funding be if revenue increases substantially?

An unknown at this stage. Whilst capacity could quadruple, contributions to community benefit may not be directly proportional. However, there would be a notable increase.

- How does the present FiT agreement work with increased generation?

The FiT payments will only be made on the existing capacity of the site (0.5MW), in the same location, and for the same time period (until 2035). This makes it prudent to repower sooner rather than later to benefit from as much FiT as possible.

- Repowering entirely changes the original Heartland project, and wouldn't it be better to build new, somewhere else?

There are a number of critical factors that make the repowering attractive versus building a new site. Scottish Govt are keen to support repowering, with grant funding available, and current planning guidance also supports repowering. The changes in FiT regulations now mean a repowering project can attract higher revenue than a new one. There is a proven wind resource and plenty of space to put up a larger turbine. We already have working relationships with stakeholders such as the landowners.

- Whilst being supportive of potential repowering, members should be taken care of with a higher rate of share interest paid for 2024 (7%), why is this not the case?

This is entirely understandable and something the board have considered carefully. We've tried to take the decision to balance member share interest payments and investing in continued work on repowering without jeopardizing member capital or our contingency fund for operational emergencies. We will continue to work closely with all members and welcome all feedback.

Heartland Community Wind

AOB: It was noted that with AGM Papers being sent only 14 days before the AGM date, members were not given sufficient time to respond or ask for changes to the proposed motions. The board agreed to look into this and to try ensure members have more opportunity to input in future.

Several members expressed their support for repowering in terms of reinvestment if there was a new share offer to raise capital.

The vote by Zoom poll was conducted at 8.15pm and the meeting concluded at 8.30pm.

By order of the Board,

Jon Hallé
Secretary
2 July 2025