

# **Halton Lune Hydro**

## **Hydro-electric Community Project**

### **MINUTES OF THE 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held in the Centre @ Halton**

**Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015 at 7:30pm**

**Present:** Hydro Management - John Blowes, Kevin Frea, Jon Sear and 38 other shareholders = 41.

**Apologies:** Received from Directors Brian Jefferson and Allan Denham, plus 48 other shareholders.

**Introduction:** The Chairman, John Blowes, welcomed shareholders to the third AGM - and along with management team member Jon Sear, gave Power Point presentations including a series of photographs to serve as updating on various aspects of flood resilience, operation and fish related responsibilities through the 2016 year. John made the point that whilst operating and maintaining the Hydro includes matters of a serious nature, there was a lighter side also being shown to add to the topics of interest.

#### **Chairman's AGM Report**

The report first of all covered flood resilience, in that the upstream wall height has been increased, along with installation of removable door barriers; funding of £4,112 having been received from Lancaster City Council. The cost of future floods should therefore be far less than the £149,215 experienced to include the building filling with mud and water in December 2015. Thanks were given to all those who helped remove an enormous amount of stone remaining by the turbine inlet screens during a summer drain down – and to the fish tapping volunteers, with an associated “thank you” meal at the Red Door in December appreciated by all who were able to attend. A small amount of revenue had also come from repairing a hole in the Weir on behalf of landlord United Utilities, given the hydro team had the expertise and equipment.

John Blowes said that he was pleased to report that the year had ended with a reasonably healthy financial position, given an insurance claim covering damage and revenue. He also noted that the turbines produce 130kW compared to the designed 160kW owing mostly to the fine mesh of the fish inlet screens. This is however compensated to some degree by excellent reliability, which means the turbines run virtually all of the time resulting in a predicted £200,000pa average revenue for normal weather years.

Key benefits for shareholders were considered not only to be the “feel good” factor of being a part of a renewable energy community project, but most had received either 50% or 30% of the initial investment back in tax relief for 2015 - and had received a 4% dividend, based on the original investment value, for 2016. Brian Jefferson was thanked for administration of the Shareholder Register and for sending out the dividend cheques to over 400 shareholders – cheques being the preferred method.

Jon Sear then provided information, with photographs, showing how the fish counter and video validation functioned, along with the need to trap 5% of fish counted and undertake health checks – all being a part of the Environment Agency Hydro Licence. Jon also showed the elver pass and use of a fyke net to trap small fish and elver for two weeks twice, as part of the licence requirement during the first two seasons. John Blowes then showed the CCTV capability and explained how having a named “Duty Officer” in charge each day, cares for the hydro.

The meeting then moved to formal proceedings and voting for the AGM resolutions:

#### **a. Approval of the March 2016 AGM Minutes**

Amendments, if any: Nil	Proposer: Sheila Jones	Seconder: Ian Huckle
Postal votes: For 35 Against Nil Abstained: 1		
On the night: For 40 Against Nil		RESULT: 75 in favour – carried

