

**Talybont-on-Usk Energy
Annual General Meeting – 24th June 2015
Henderson Hall, Talybont-on-Usk**

Present: Michael Wright, Alison Kidd, Peter Williams, Hilary Williams, Barbara Anglezarke, Adele Nozedar, Nick Willson, Andrew & Helen Roderick

Apologies: Guy Hope, Vaughan Bennett, Clare Wright, Kirsty Williams AM/AC

In Attendance: Regan Jones

1. Chair's Welcome

Barbara Anglezarke, Chair, welcomed all present and introduced the Agenda.

2. To approve Minutes of the AGM held on 26th June 2014

The Minutes were approved and then seconded by Hillary Williams.

3. To Receive a Report on Progress to Date

The year's highlights were reported on – these included:

1 Turbine

The turbine continues to operate well without too many maintenance related issues. Both the mechanical and electrical elements have had major services during the year. The turbine runner (the bit the water goes through) has lost one of its blades but is still running in balance and there has been little effect on overall turbine efficiency. The blade will be refitted during the summer.

The turbine house has a slight damp issue (water leak through the roof or joints of older stone walls) and it needs a good paint job on the inside. This work will be carried out during the next year.

We remain grateful to Welsh Water Dwr Cymru for allowing us to continue operating the turbine at the site.

WWDC control the flow of water through the turbine. Over the last few years, they have slightly changed the flow regime as they look to maintain a high level of water retention in the reservoir. This has resulted in a slightly different power production profile throughout the year and a total production that is about 20% lower than the pre-2013 average. Overall power export/production for 2014 was 160,124kWHrs. In the first five months of 2015 the turbine produced 98,008kWHrs (10% higher than 2014).

Based on the average domestic electricity consumption of 3,300kWHrs, the Talybont on Usk turbine's 2014 production is equivalent to the electricity used by about 50 houses.

In February, Talybont Energy's turbine featured in BBC's 'Escape to the Country'.

2 Increasing energy use to renewable sources

2.1 Henderson Hall

The PV panels on Henderson Hall (4 kW installed in 2011 & increased to 8kW in 2014) have produced a total of 22,000 kWh of electricity to date – now averaging 8,000 kWh a year. This has reduced the electricity bill for the hall by around 35% as well as providing them with a small income from the Feed in Tariff.

The air source heat system (installed 2014) has significantly reduced the consumption of LPG and the associated heating costs by ~80%

Talybont Energy is delighted to have been able to play a part in significantly reducing both

the running costs and carbon footprint of such an important community resource. We would like to thank Clare Wright for managing these projects and overcoming obstacles en route.

2.2 Other installations

There are a growing number of private installations of PV panels, renewable heating and domestic hydro in our community. ToUE can take no credit for this but we are now trying to collect data from these and display renewable electricity totals on our website in order to increase awareness of such schemes and their impact on our overall community energy use. Our combined renewable energy sources in Talybont Council area now add up to 254,770 kWh per year which is roughly 17% of the electricity our community uses (an estimated 1,500,000 kWh per year).

We have had some discussion with both Western Power and Cardiff University about ways in which we could automatically collate and display this information publically in the village but this looks to be beyond all parties' technical capability (and seemingly their motivation) at this time. It remains a longer term project we would like to fund if we could find someone willing and able to take on the technical challenge.

The Board also remains interested in the possibility of water source heating using the canal to benefit adjacent properties.

2.3 Talybont car project

The car project has now been running for over 5 years and currently has 2 vehicles - Mr Chips, a Skoda Octavia which runs on recycled vegetable oil and Heulwen, a 100% electric van charged via Henderson Hall's PV panels. The project currently has 12 member households.

In 5 years, the vehicles have done a total of 96,000 'zero carbon' miles saving ~33 tonnes CO₂ (once the shared journeys are calculated).

The car project remains a flagship project for Talybont Energy saving significant carbon and continuing to attract UK wide interest. It is widely cited as a case study and we are regularly contacted for advice by other rural communities across the UK. Unfortunately, we still struggle to attract wider interest and use of the vehicles by our own community! Using a shared car and paying-by-use requires a surprisingly big shift in thinking but, once made, our members find the vehicles very useful. The car project narrowly failed to cover its running costs for the first time in 2014. This was mainly due to Mr Chips inevitably requiring more frequent and expensive maintenance work due to his advanced age and this meaning no user revenue during those off-the-road periods.

The Board is committed to seeing the project continue even if it requires some ongoing subsidy. The Board opted not to increase the user fees in 2015 because the goal of the project is to encourage more use of the vehicles and therefore more zero carbon miles. The fees are currently set at about the same level as it costs someone to do a trip in their own vehicle.

We would like to thank Mr Geraint James for his past efforts in maintaining Mr Chips and for housing our biodiesel tank for a period of time. We would also like to thank Mr Charles Weston for housing the tank from July 2014 and providing electricity and lighting to make its use easier for members.

3 Community activities

3.1 Eco cub badge

This year has seen an exciting new collaboration between ToUE and 1st Llangynidr Cubs. Working with ToUE Directors, Michael Wright and Hilary Williams, the cub leaders have developed possibly the UK's first ever Community Eco Award for cubs. This has involved the cubs and ToUE in a turbine visit, numerous activity and educational packages, an entertaining activity and educational evening with the High Sheriff of Powys and, finally, a celebration and badge awards presented to the cubs by Hilary in May. It's been a

challenging and stimulating exercise for all parties and the Llangynidr Scout group is now keen to develop Stage 2 of the badge with our help.

We would like to thank Jon Dixon for designing the Eco Award badge.

3.2 Educational

In addition to the cub project, Hilary has delivered ToUE's Key Stage 2 educational package (based on the Talybont turbine and associated activities) to Crickhowell and Llangynidr Primary Schools.

ToUE this year offered sponsorship for local adults wishing to take short courses in sustainable energy or sustainable building techniques. We had only one applicant who has since, apparently, disappeared from view. This is disappointing. However, we are hoping to explore this avenue again through links with local school 6th forms and potential student placements in local companies.

3.3 Pod Youth Shelter

ToUE provided funding to the Talybont Community Recreational Group for a pod youth shelter where people can sit, chill out and play i-pod music (powered by winding a handle!). This has been installed in the playing fields.

3.4 Community Council grant

For the 2nd year running, ToUE donated a proportion of its income to the Talybont Community Council for them to offer as grants for wider community projects and activities. We have also continued to help fund Talybont Matters. This year, this provided funds for a community defibrillator, a trip for young people to Techniquet in Cardiff, a wheelbarrow gardening project for children, the community woodland group and the Friends of Talybont Reservoir.

3.5 ToUE Open Day

ToUE ran an Open Day in September for the local community. This involved various information stalls and eco gadgets in the hall, apple pressing by The Green Valleys (very popular with small people) and visits to the turbine and demonstration runs in the Talybont cars and Eco Travel Network Twizys. It was encouraging to see new faces at this and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

4 Website

www.talybontenergy.co.uk underwent a revamp earlier this year and we've also tried to post a bit more on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/talybont.energy>. The website attracts around 4,000 page views a year from all over the UK and beyond. We are still regularly contacted by University students wanting to use us a case study of community energy. We managed to accommodate some but not all of these.

5 And finally..

The Board would like to welcome our newest Director, Guy Hope and to thank Regan Jones for another year's work in keeping our administration matters in order. We also thank Mike Bugler for his continued advice and support which has been much appreciated.

4. Presentation of the Annual Report and Accounts

Michael Wright, Treasurer, presented the draft accounts for 2014. The Accounts showed a turnover of £28,913 and a gross deficit of £34,990 which will result in a refund of Corporation Tax of £2,789. The financial position remains solid with y/e cash at hand of £23,688 and a positive Balance Sheet."

The Accounts were approved and seconded by Nick Willson

The Accounts are publicly available for inspection – they will be posted on the website and filed at Companies House.

5. Appointment of Hon. Auditor

The continuation of Mr. Vaughan Bennett of CAS in Crickhowell was approved by all present.

6. To Elect Directors to serve for 2014/15

In accordance with the Company's Articles, one third of Directors resigned from office (Barbara Anglezarke, Peter Williams and Alison Kidd) and they were re-elected.

7. Any Other Business

It was discussed that a sticker of the TOUE logo, with energy facts needs to be put on the Pod Youth Shelter.

Barbara Anglezarke, Chair