

Lough Cumnel Group Water Scheme Co-operative Society Ltd.
Annual General Meeting
14th June 2017 at Killeen Community Centre

Minutes:

Minutes of the previous AGM on the 23rd June 2016 were read to the meeting by Michael O'Grady. They were proposed by John Tiernan, seconded by Brendan Lyons and signed off by the Chairperson, Sal O'Malley.

Chairperson's Address:

Sal O'Malley welcomed everyone with a special welcome to Paul Connolly, from the National Federation of Group Water Schemes, and John O'Toole, our accountant. She thanked them for being very helpful throughout the year.

She introduced Louise Noble to the members as our new Manager and wished her well and looks forward to working with her. She thanked Connie O'Driscoll for her work with the Scheme and wished her well in her new job.

There are, at present, twelve Board Members and there have been approximately twelve meetings during the year – all on a voluntary basis. She thanked the Board Members for their time.

The main purpose of the AGM is to keep the members informed and to set a rate for water charges. She thanked Austin Francis, Johnny McGreal and Connie O'Driscoll for their work over the year in dealing with water leaks, maintenance and collecting the water charges. She thanked those who have paid their water bills and issued a strong reminder to those in arrears of the requirement to pay their bills and that some customers in arrears are being written to with a “notification of legal action”. There is now a new company, Glan Agua, treating the water and they are charging 20c per m³, as opposed to 5c per m³ being charged by the previous company. There is a need, therefore, to conserve water and she issued a warning that meters should be checked regularly by the members and they should be careful when working around water-pipes, as the Scheme cannot be responsible for damage due to carelessness.

She thanked Egbert Polski for keeping the website up to date and that the website is there for everyone's information. She called on John O'Toole to present the accounts.

Audited Accounts:

John O'Toole gave a summary of the audited accounts to everyone present and a copy of the audited accounts is available for anybody who wants one. Accounts were audited by David O'Sullivan. There is a balance for year ended 31st December 2016 of €57,000.

John responded to questions from the floor and explained the situation with subsidies received from the State through the County Council.

The position with debtors was requested and there is €7,500 outstanding. There was general agreement that debtors should be dealt with strongly to avoid debts increasing annually. The question of turning off water was raised and John urged the members who feel strongly about water charges not to take their frustration out on the Scheme by not paying, but to lobby their politicians. Paul Connolly explained that group water schemes retain the right to cut off water but that this is used a very last option.

Accounts were adopted on the proposal of Seamus O'Malley and seconded by Christy Gibbons.

Managers' Report:

The Managers' Report was presented by the incoming manager, Louise Noble. Eight new loggers were installed on the Scheme, with a cost of €10,560, and will be invaluable in the detection of leaks.

There has been four new connections and the number of connections now stands at 353.

We aim to reduce night-time usage over the coming year, with a constant watch being kept on chlorine levels. Pipe flushing will be completed over the coming months.

Q&A:

Some questions in relation to the scheme quality assurance and the replacement of the intake pipe, were all answered. Paul Connolly states that the issue of the intake pipe will be dealt with in the very near future.

Election of Officers:

Seamus O'Malley stepped down from the Board, as did Ian Donald. Both put themselves forward for re-election. Ian Donald was re-elected on the proposal of

John McDowell and seconded by Christy Gibbons. Seamus O'Malley was re-elected on the proposal of Christy Gibbons and seconded by Michael O'Grady.

Water Charges:

The committee, having considered the financial situation for 2016 and budgets for 2017, proposed a water charge based on meter readings only, as follows:

First 50m³ charged at €2 per m³, with a charge of €1 per m³ thereafter. This does away with the capital contribution. A person using 170m³ would pay €220, and this would be at the upper end of the usage scale with the average usage being 140m³ to 170m³. All meters will be read.

The Chairperson, Sal O'Malley, put the aforementioned fees to the meeting and sought a proposal of €2 per m³ to be charged for the first 50m³, with €1 per m³ being charged thereafter. This was proposed by Egbert Polski and Seamus O'Malley. The motion was carried and the fees set at the above rate for water usage for 2016.

A.O.B.

The problem of very poor water pressure in Cregganbaun and in particular at his own house was raised by Thomas Kilcoyne and John Tiernan also stated that water pressure can be very poor, particularly in the mornings. Austin Francis assured both men that their situation is being addressed and that it is hoped some new piping in the village would solve the problem.

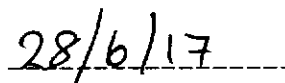
Austin Francis also welcomed Louise and looks forward to working with her and he wished Connie well in her new job.

Paul Connolly thanked such a good crowd for turning up to the meeting, stressing how important it is to keep an interest in the scheme. He thanks Louise for her help and wishes her well in the job. He also thanks the Board for their on-going and tireless work on behalf of the scheme.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded.



Sal O'Malley
Chairperson



Date