



Minutes of WREN Annual General Meeting 29th September 2015 Wadebridge Town Hall

WREN Board Members present:

Richard Alexander (RA) - Finance Director
David Atfield (DA)
Jerry Clark (JC) - Technical Director
Tony Faragher (TF) – Company Secretary
Lizzy-Jane Frankel (LJF)
Stephen Frankel (SF) – Chairman
Adrian Jones (AJ)
Peter McGregor (PM)
Caroline New (CN)
Amanda Pennington (AP)
Kevin Smith (KS)

WREN Members present:

Andrew Aitchison, Sam Angwin, Charlotte Barry, Andrew Beney, Roger Blackburn, Trish Blackburn, William Box, Paul Brocklebank, Pat Brocklebank, Peter Bunyard, Steven Calvert, Jeremy Chancellor, Dominic Comonte, Maxine Comonte, William Comonte, Jolyon Constable, Janet De La Cour, Voirrey Faragher, Odile Faull, Eric Gill, Peter Gonnet, Andrew Hawkey, Shaun Hawkey, Lauren Hawkey, Jason Henderson, Randi Henderson, Janet Hereward, John Hereward, Charlotte Hewett, Janet Hulme, Will Hutton, Rick Johnson, Robert Knight, Angus Lamond, Chris Leavold, Bill Lugg, Tim Lunt, Simon Malloni, Leonie McGregor (minutes), Paul McNulty, Mark Norman, Lynette Rentoul, Stephen Rushworth, Diana Smith, Nigel Smith-Keary, Michael Sutton, Claire Tregaskis, Jean Tregaskis, Karen Whalley, Jude Whitby, Gage Williams, Adele Wilsher, Mark Wilsher, Jim Wood, Helen Whitthread, Rosemary Whitthread, Stan Whitthread.

Apologies:

Nicki Atfield, Ray Avent, Margaret Bartlett, Pamela Bousfield, Yvonne Brierley, John Catchpole, Fiona Clark, David Garlick, Sue Gilbert, Irene Hardie, George Harris, Gerald Hoskin, Shirley Hoskin, David Key, Jennifer Knightley, Stephen Knightley, Mickey Lett, Neil Lindsay, Jennifer Lugg, Scott Mann, Janet Moul, Emma Miller, Simon Miller, Julian Mutton, Maggie Mutton, Kate Royston, David Shillito, David Treacher, Jacqui White, Ann Witts.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and declared the meeting quorate.

The meeting started with introductions from each of the directors:

Tony Faragher, a founder member of WREN and Company Secretary, has a background in social care.

Amanda Pennington, a local mum who has young children growing up in the town, has been a director since 2011.

Lizzy-Jane Frankel is an artist who organises events for WREN, provides some of the art work and also volunteers in the shop.

Rachel Wigglesworth has been a director for 2 years and works in public health. She is interested in the impact of a person's living environment on their physical and mental health.

Richard Alexander runs a small accountancy practise in Wadebridge and is WREN's finance director.

Jerry Clark has a background in green building. He is a founder member and technical director of WREN, and is responsible for bringing most of the programmes to fruition.

Adrian Jones is a founder member of WREN. He is involved in many aspects of Wadebridge, as a Town Councillor, chair of the Chamber of Commerce and part of the Folk Festival organising team. Because of these many commitments he will step down from the Board tonight.

Kevin Smith is WREN's communications director, producing the newsletter and liaising with the press. In his previous life he worked for Shell.

Peter McGregor is a founder member of WREN. He is a scientist working in the natural environment where his project development work links in with bodies such as Volunteer Cornwall and CoaST.

Caroline New runs a graphic design and website development business in Wadebridge. As well as design work for the WREN website, Caroline is the link with the local primary schools.

David Atfield is a founding director and specialises in academic and student liaison, principally with Plymouth and Exeter Universities, both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Presentation of the Middle Trewarder Community Fund awards

The fund is associated with the Middle Trewarder Solar Farm which is on part of land owned by the Hawkey family. The fund is about £10,000 per year, in this first year of the awards 2 years' worth of the fund is being distributed. TF thanked the committee of 9 local people who had made the decisions this year. The committee is convened and the funds administered by WREN. Cheques of varying amounts (total fund £20,200) were presented by Shaun Hawkey to the following successful applicant groups:

Wadebridge Carnival, Camhayle Theatre Club, Wadebridge Bowls club, Wadebridge Demetia Action Alliance, St Kew Primary School, St Mabyn Pre-school, Growing Wild Cornwall, Wadebridge Youth Project, Wadebridge Creative Hub, Time to Shine, Cornwall Birdwatching and Preservation Society, St Kew Playing Fields Trust, St Kew Pre-school, Wadebridge Streetband, Camel River Community Boatshed.

The Formal AGM followed the presentation

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 30th September 2014 were accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising.

1) Reports from the Board:

SF presented the Chairman's Report.

The following matters were discussed in response to the report:

- Scotland Corner. This 12.5 MW wind project has been in the planning system for some time and was originally submitted by developers as a conventional commercial model. The current status of the application is a refusal of permission. Recently introduced legislation regarding community ownership of assets such as these means that there is now an opportunity for a dedicated local community energy company to pursue the application. As the annualised output of the turbines would equal the consumption of the whole of the Wadebridge and Padstow network area, WREN is seeking the views of all the relevant parish and town councils to assess whether there is support for this course of action. WREN would only proceed with full local support, accepting that this would be just the first stage in the process.
- Angus Lamond felt it important that the following points should be recorded: landscape values and community benefits are 2 separate issues which should not be confused with each other; the more Wadebridge is promoted as an attractive place to live, the more difficult it will be to maintain a green profile; WREN should be concerned with jet aircraft pollution reducing the sunlight reaching solar panels; finally, Methane Digestion from sewage should be further investigated.
- Local energy supply tariff. Good Energy is operating such a tariff at Camelford whereby local people receive a 20% discount on their bills.
- Storage technology is moving fast and soon to become a major part of the equation. An example was given of battery storage the size of 4 containers to be installed near a substation on a business park near St Agnes. The benefits will allow load shifting to night time or days when

generation is down, and also a night time tariff. It was noted that a call for applications for EU funding for major projects involving storage is anticipated in the coming months.

2) Presentation of accounts and balance sheet

RA presented WREN's audited accounts which are also available on the website. Whilst WREN is not a charity, charities are obliged to show restricted and unrestricted funds, and this practice has been adopted to make the financial statements as clear and meaningful as possible. RA stated that the balance sheet shows WREN has grown in strength and the finances are looking fairly positive for the immediate foreseeable future SF thanked RA for his work as Financial Director of WREN. The accounts were unanimously approved by the members by a show of hands.

3) Report of the auditor

RA drew attention to the report of the independent auditors David Elston and Co. and asked the members to note that the report is unqualified i.e. the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company at 31st March 2015 in accordance with UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice, and they have been properly prepared in accordance with The Cooperative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014. Additionally there were no matters which the auditors felt should be brought to the attention of members that had not already been disclosed in the accounts.

4) Appointment of auditor

Whilst there is no legal requirement for a yearly external audit, WREN will continue to do this in the interests of transparency and openness. It was agreed in accordance with good practice that WREN should retender for an auditor for next year.

5) Proposal from the Board to use the surplus funds from 2014/2015 for the continuation and development of WREN (in accordance with Rule 65).

This was unanimously agreed.

6). Proposal from the Board to amend WREN's Rules by (a) lowering to twenty-five the number of members required to request a Special General Meeting (b) lowering to twenty-five the quorum for an AGM

The reason for proposing this rule change is that whilst WREN does all it can to advertise the AGM and encourage members to attend, and whilst a quorum of over 50 members has always been reached in the past, it is felt that a requirement for a smaller number would be less onerous and avoid any extra costs incurred in reconvening a further meeting in the event of a small turnout. There was extensive discussion of this point. The proposal was carried by a show of hands with one vote against. TF explained that this resolution would now be submitted to the Financial Conduct Authority for approval.

7) Election to vacancies on the Board

Adrian Jones resigned from the Board and was thanked for his contribution. In accordance with WREN's registered rules, each year one third of the directors have to stand down and may offer themselves for re-election. These were the longest serving Board members Tony Faragher, Peter McGregor, Caroline

New and Amanda Pennington. All stood for re-election and were unanimously re-appointed to the Board. . William Box was unanimously elected to the vacancy on the Board.

Tony Faragher has been a member of the Board for 5 years and his desire to see WREN succeed is no less than it was at the beginning. His particular interest is in issues of social inequality and he has been keen to ensure that fuel poverty and income and housing tenure are always considered as part of WREN's thinking. He has been elected as Company Secretary each year, and would like to continue in that role, ensuring the correct procedures are followed for the company, for WREN's employees, and in the proper handling of grant monies. Going forward, he would also like to contribute more in shaping the strategic direction in which WREN moves. .

Caroline New was honoured to be asked to be a director of WREN a few years ago. She wishes to continue using her skills from both her environmental science background and her work in the creative and technical industries to contribute towards a positive future for the town where she and her family are living, working and growing up. Her daughter gave a speech at the Wadebridge Energy Futures Exhibition, and Caroline is able to present the views of a parent to the Board, having also been involved in running workshops at St Breock primary school.

Peter McGregor lives in Egloshayle, has an 18 year old son who sees little prospect of the availability of well-paid jobs in the locality. In his work in project development he brings experience of funding applications to the Board. He believes in acting together to grasp what the future has to offer rather than waiting for what the government may or may not provide. He is inspired by the words of Gandhi "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win". He would like to stay on the Board to see WREN win.

Amanda Pennington has been on the Board for 4 years and sees herself as a people person, helping to make things happen using her large network of contacts. Amanda likes to communicate the WREN message by whatever means are appropriate including encouraging young people to appear in WREN videos and on the recent carnival float. She is part of the recruitment team for WREN and was involved with the recent appointments to the operations team of Sam Angwin and Leonie McGregor

William Box is Head of Smart Systems, having worked for WREN as a member for 3 years. His background is as a chartered engineer, and he now runs a small specialist business in the energy sector helping people make the best use of energy and focussing on human behaviour. He has encountered many idealists in the energy world, and believes that WREN as a body combine their idealism with a pragmatic approach, and he would like to play his part in bringing some of these ideas to fruition.

John Catchpole and **Jake Burnyeat** are specialist advisers to the Board, and co-opted outside the election process. In accordance with WREN's registered rules they both stood down as co-opted directors. They were both thanked for their ongoing valuable contributions.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked all members attending and declared the meeting closed.