

**Minutes of WREN Board Meeting**  
**10<sup>th</sup> April 2019, The Goods Shed, Wadebridge**

WREN Board Members present: Chris Coonick (CC), Tony Faragher (TF), Rick Johnson (RJ), Kevin Smith (KS).

WREN ops assistant: Leonie McGregor (LM), (minutes).

Apologies: Amanda Pennington (AP).

Meeting started 09:30, closed 10.45.

The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 13th February 2019.

Matters arising:

- Insurances are due for renewal in May. TF, KS and LM to look at what level of cover is now required.
- TF has had no response from Balfour Beatty re an administration fee for the Treworder Fund, and will follow up. The funds have been received for this year.
- KS to contact the Real Food Garden offering to include details of their growing courses in the next newsletter.

1. **Finance:** KS produced an update on WREN's unrestricted funds as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019, for the full financial year. The deficit is £400 less than last year (increased consultancy income of £1,000, increased expenditure of £600 in wages). The cost of insurance may decrease after the review. It was decided to discontinue WREN's membership of Regen – LM to give them notice.
2. **Communications:** The outcome of awards from both the St Breock and WREN Funds have been reported in the North Cornwall Advertiser and on WREN's website. The newsletter will be published as soon as possible. Topics will include the peer to peer trading project and outcome of the application to the Next Generation Fund. It will also feature an opinion piece on the end of the Feed in Tariff and include news of energy suppliers unveiling their own solar export payment plans. CC to send some information for KS to include.
3. **Update on Projects:** CC updated the Board on WREN's peer to peer trading project idea. There are currently 3 possibilities for funding:
  - WREN's recent application to the Next Generation Fund (NGF) was not one of the projects chosen for further development in the first round. The feedback received was very positive, and the reason for not funding was related to complexity of the project, capacity of the team and the risk of underfunding. A second round is to be announced in May and if the project fits the new call conditions WREN will be invited to a meeting to discuss the proposal before submission.
  - The proposal has been included as a strand in a stage one ERDF application submitted by a team at the University of East London in partnership with 5 others under the heading Cornwall Future Energy. If the 3 year project is funded, WREN would be a beneficiary of innovation support and could then run the programme as a commercial model. The outcome of the stage one application should be known by the beginning of June, successful projects will be notified of the further stage two decisions in September.
  - Rural Community Energy Fund. The South West hub for this new fund is currently being set up and will be administered in Bristol. Funds will be available for both feasibility and pilot studies, and there may be opportunities for match funding with the NGF.
4. **Community Funds: WREN Fund:** 6 of the 8 applications were funded - feedback was offered to the 2 unsuccessful applicants. A second £9,000 is now available and the fund is due to run again from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019, and then annually thereafter. **St Breock Fund:** The local government reorganisation of parish boundaries due to be effected in 2020 may require a change to the s106 agreement - TF will be meeting Carey Green from Renewable Energy Systems (RES) who manage the fund on behalf of St Breock Wind Farm. REG Power Management who previously managed the fund have been acquired by RES, but there has been no transfer of ownership of the asset and no

change to the existing agreement. **VAT:** It was decided to include a tick box on all future fund application forms to deal with the issue of VAT. It will be made clear that if an organisation is VAT registered and therefore able to reclaim VAT, the particular fund will only pay the cost of goods or services net of VAT. For those organisations that are not registered for VAT the purchase price of the goods or services plus VAT will be paid by the fund.

**5. Other business:**

- KS had received advance notification of a Regen forum in Bristol covering subsidy free solar development. He will circulate the agenda once received. CC to look at the feasibility study commissioned by WREN on a solar allotment
- CC is attending a Zero Carbon Cornwall workshop convened by Cornwall Council following their climate emergency declaration. The workshop is aimed at developing a local industrial strategy and will deal with the electrification of the housing stock, amongst other topics.
- CC will be giving a talk at the Green Government Conference in July, entitled “Building a new energy future for the local energy market”, where she will refer to the peer to peer trading project.

**NEXT MEETING WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019, 9 30 am at The Goods Shed.**

**(then 12<sup>th</sup> June, 10<sup>th</sup> July, 14<sup>th</sup> August, 11<sup>th</sup> September, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 13<sup>th</sup> November, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019)**