

Minutes of WREN Board Meeting
28th February 2020, The Goods Shed, Wadebridge

WREN Board Members present: Chris Coonick (CC), Tony Faragher (TF), Rick Johnson (RJ), Amanda Pennington (AP), Kevin Smith (KS), Marcus Shirley (MS).

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

WREN Community Engagement Officer: Simon Miller (SM).

There were no apologies.

Meeting started 14:00, closed 16:00.

The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting held on 19th December 2019.

There were no matters arising.

1. **Welcomes:** The Board welcomed recently co-opted Board member Marcus Shirley, and newly appointed Community Engagement Officer Simon Miller.
2. **Finance:** KS produced an income and expenditure report for the first 3 quarters of the financial year. The finances were roughly in line with expectations, with a slight increase in expenditure. LM to check a higher than expected Macace payment, TF to remind Stephen Knightley that WREN is owed £66 hall hire for the hustings event. £1,000 to be moved from the WREN Community Benefit restricted fund to unrestricted funds in line with the agreement with Clean Earth. There were 3 new membership fees. It was agreed that TF will speak to Ian Welch regarding a possible role on the Board.
3. **Communications:** The January newsletter announced the RCEF funding. More detail will be given in the next newsletter once the press release has been cleared with RCEF, and also include an initial announcement for the EV day, and the awards made by the St Breock panels. The open rate on Mailchimp is at least 40%. Print was discussed – the North Cornwall Advertiser is the best local newspaper. KS to contact Lee Trehwela at Cornwall Live which is the online conduit for many local and county-wide interest stories that would have previously appeared in the Cornish Guardian.
4. **EV promotion day:** Saturday May 23rd. Wadebridge Town Council have given permission for the use of the lower portion of the car park – cost to be confirmed. TF to apply to Cornwall Counsellor Community Chests and Wadebridge Town Council for funding. Insurance was discussed – TF to check WREN's event insurance and notify the insurer. CC will help with risk assessment. MS has circulated to the Board for comment an extensive list of possible questions from attendees. The logistics of how people could test drive EVs was discussed. It is considered important that enthusiastic EV owners are available on the day, and ideally attendees could go for a drive with them. It was suggested that representatives from the Tour of Britain could also be part of the event – SM to follow up. MS and TF will continue to develop the ideas for the day. Matt Trevaskis (business support), Tony Sampson (Naked Energy) and John Carley (Chasewater) to be contacted. MS to produce press release.
5. **Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF):** SM gave an update on progress. It was agreed that the launch event will be Thursday 16th April in Wadebridge Town Hall. The booking is from 2 pm to midnight, but WREN is also welcome to have a presence at the Country Market which takes place there in the morning. Ideas for the event were discussed, along the lines of a renewable energy fair. The Watts the Deal board game developed by Charlotte Johnson's team at UCL is being customised for the project and will be available to be played at the event. It will also be played beforehand at the board games club run by Café Vittorio (10th March 7pm) and by Wadebridge School Eco committee (12th March). Charlotte will be attending the event and is hoping to visit Wadebridge prior to this. Primary schools will be invited for activities in the afternoon. The evening will consist of a presentation and Q & A session. A budget of £1,000 from WREN's own funds was agreed for marketing, promotional material, hall hire, refreshments. Any new banners and flags will be generic WREN ones for use in other situations. Local suppliers will be used for design and print. TF had presented to Rotary, and further presentations to local groups are planned. The aim is to inform all local people about the project, particularly those without pv. Potential sites for solar pv were discussed.

6. **St Breock Fund:** 31 applications have been received and will be considered by the 7 panel meetings taking place in the first 2 weeks of March.
7. **Frequency, dates and times of meetings:** the next meeting will be on 27th March, all further dates to be confirmed.

NEXT MEETING FRIDAY 27th March 2020, 2 pm at The Goods Shed.

(then 24th April, 29th May, 26th June, 31st July, 28th August, 25th September, 30th October, 27th November 2020)